The Middlebury Campus

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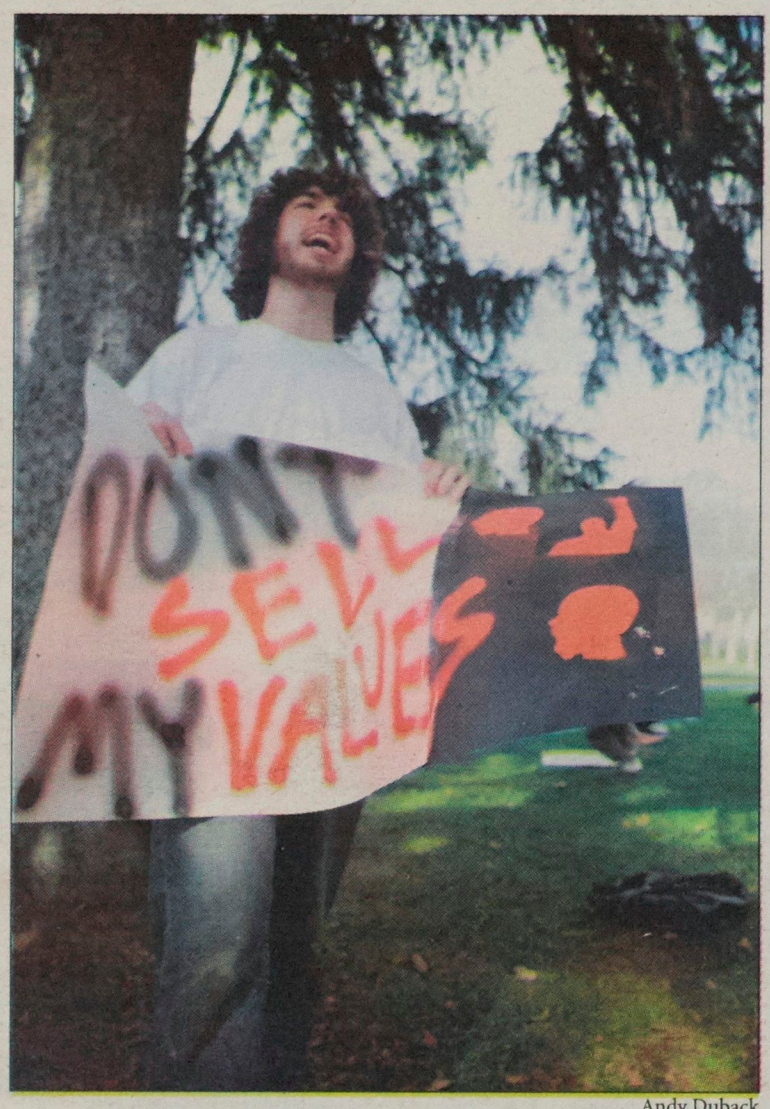

Andy Duback

Louis Lobel '08.5 helped organize a student protest against the Rehnquist professorship, and called for a new faculty chair to reflect student values.

Rehnquist protestors engage Old Chapel

By Anthony Adragna
Staff Writer

Nearly 30 students and faculty members rallied in front of Old Chapel on Friday to protest the new Rehnquist professorship. The protest came amid news that President of the College Ronald D. Liebowitz had agreed to better accomodate student interests in the naming of future endowed professorships.

Student leaders of the protest said that the administration had agreed to create an endowed professorship in addition to the Rehnquist post, that would be named after a figure supported by students. The announcement followed a lengthy meeting with Liebowitz on the matter, and students said they were already in contact with alumni about funding the new post.

Protest leader Louis Lobel '08.5 said the meeting went well with Liebowitz. "We met with him for an hour on Wednesday," he said. "He was very responsive. We are [now] trying to make a professorship that is as long-lasting as the Rehnquist one will be."

Explaining the administration's response to the protesters' concerns, Liebowitz said he will make an effort to include student input in naming future endowed positions.

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College eyeing $500 million goal

Anticipated five-year campaign would break records

By Derek Schlickeisen
News Editor

The College may launch the largest fundraising drive in the history of liberal arts institutions next fall, according to President of the College Ronald D. Liebowitz and others in the administration. If successful, the campaign would raise nearly $500 million over five years in order to fund objectives outlined in the recently adopted Strategic Plan.

The campaign, which the Board of Trustees will likely endorse in May, would require a significant expansion of the College's donor base beyond existing alumni, parents and friends of the College. To accomplish this expansion, Liebowitz said that the College would look to those who agree with its mission in a changing world.

"Where this campaign could distinguish itself from all others is by expanding our network of prospective donors outside of the College," Liebowitz said. "We are engaging people who understand that the world is now global, and would support institutions like Middlebury that have internationalized their curricula and focus on both linguistic and cultural competency."

Courtesy

President of the College Ronald D. Liebowitz hopes to raise record funds in a new campaign to meet the objectives of the College's Strategic Plan.

Though the anticipated campaign comes on the heels of three highly successful years of efforts to increase the College's endowment, the $500 million mark would signify the largest capital campaign in the history of liberal arts colleges. Wellesley College in Massachusetts

See Campaign, page 5

Midd Rides restores call-in service

By Brian Fung
Staff Writer

The Midd Rides program will once again accept telephone requests for evening transportation as soon as the underlying infrastructure has been re-established, the Department of Public Safety said on Monday. The reversal in policy reflects Public Safety's responsiveness to growing disappointment among students with a recent decision to eliminate the popular call-in system.

Up until this fall, students could call a Midd Rides van like a taxi, using a special campus phone extension to tell an operator where they were. The operator would then give the caller a time and place that they would be picked up. The phone system, however, was shut down this semester and calls to Midd Rides' extension are now redirected to either the College's main switchboard or to the Office of Public Safety.

"This increases the call volume," said Lisa Boudah, director of Public Safety, "and makes it difficult for the telecommunicator to answer other calls for service."

In place of the call-in service, the Midd Rides shuttle began running on a set loop through the campus and downtown areas.

"The idea was to eliminate the calls entirely and have the routes take [their] place," said Jason Gutierrez '09, a Midd Rides driver. "I don't know why," he added, explaining his confusion at Public Safety's interference with a system that seemed to serve students well.

Tyler Lohman '08.5, also employed as a Midd Rides driver, looked to recent events as justification for the call-in system. "It was a great idea, especially with the kidnapping at the University of Vermont," he said. "I think a lot of people want it back."

Until 2003, Midd Rides was responsible for providing transportation to students only from Sunday through Thursday nights. During the weekend, the task was relegated to a third-party service. Unlike Midd Rides, however, the contract van did not operate with a dispatcher and ran solely on a predetermined route.

Though the Department of Public Safety regarded the independence of the third-party operation from a dispatcher as a major incentive for its continued existence, the program was ultimately deemed too costly. In the end, the decision was made to abolish the program and incorporate its

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Council pushes for tighter security

By Zamir Ahmed
News Editor

Recommendations calling for the locking of Atwater Dining Hall and the installation of cameras for a test period in Proctor Dining Hall were approved by Community Council on Nov. 13 in an effort to combat theft on campus. The recommendations will now head to Old Chapel for consideration.

Under the recommendation, Atwater Dining Hall would require an access card to open doors to the building until the completion of Winter Term. The move is designed to help determine whether campus thefts are being made by a member of the College community or by an outside source.

"If locking Atwater greatly reduces the number of thefts there, we have at least succeeded in narrowing the list of perpetrators to non-college persons," said Dean Atyia '08.5, a student representative on the Council. "If not, we may be able to safely assume the culprit is someone within the community."

Other members of the Council see the locking of Atwater as in line with the continual lockdown of a majority of buildings on campus and say it will not cause students problems.

"I don't think its really a big deal because the building is already wired to be locked," said Peyton Coles '08, a Council student representative, "and people are already used to using their access cards to get into other buildings."

Some members of the Council did not believe that a lockdown of Atwater would reduce thefts because of the openness of the College community.

"I do not feel that locking Atwater Dining Hall will significantly decrease the number of thefts that occur because Middlebury is the type of place where students hold doors open for those without access cards — which I don't necessarily

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Ilhan Kim

Caving in to the music

Genius Cave performed Friday night at the 200 Days Party, helping seniors celebrate a milestone in their countdown to graduation.

ON THE INSIDE

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The end of black bear hunting season means deer hunting season to Vermont, page 7

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Midd-kids search for their soulmates at Blind Date Dolci, page 10

TOGA, TOGA, TOGA!
Take a trip down memory lane, when frats ruled Middlebury, page 13

MIDDBRIEFS

BY TREVOR LEE

Elevator outages trap several students in Bicentennial Hall

Students were trapped multiple times in the elevators in McCardell Bicentennial Hall last week.

"We have been experiencing an intermittent problem recently where one or both of the passenger elevator controllers has been shutting down unexpectedly," said Building Director Tim Wickland. "I know that at least a couple of times this has happened, there have been passengers in the elevator."

The incident is just one in a series of problems that have plagued the building's elevators this semester.

"I was leaving Bicentennial Hall after finishing a problem set," said Adam Morgan '08.5, "and saw [Public Safety] Officer Chris [Thompson] shouting instructions into the left elevator door about some button that would make the elevator go down to the next floor and open up. I offered to help, but he said there wasn't anything to do."

Facilities Services is working with Bay State, the elevator maintenance company, to fix the elevators, but "unfortunately," Wickland said, "intermittent problems are the hardest to diagnose because the technician needs to be able to catch the misbehavior when it occurs."

"This behavior," Wickland said, "has been very annoying to users and is unacceptable to the College."

College warns trail runners about presence of hunters

Public Safety reminded students last week that hunting season is now open in Vermont and students who participate in activities in rural or wooded areas should take precautionary steps to remain highly visible.

Middlebury students should "understand that there are other people around participating in other activities," said Assistant Director of Public Safety Dan Giaotti about the reminder Public Safety has issued every year since 2002.

The notice was directed as much toward students participating in activities off-campus as toward those participating in activities on and around campus. Giaotti said that students who hike should "be aware, be visible and pay attention."

"It doesn't really affect us," said Bruce Hallett '10, a runner on the College's cross-country team. "We run in a big enough group that we are pretty easy to notice. [Men's Cross Country Coach] Terry [Aldrich] would probably be the one out hunting anyway."

Although Giaotti said he knows of no accidents involving hunters and Middlebury students, he said there has been at least one incident in which students have been concerned after seeing a man with a bow and arrow. The goal, Giaotti said, is to prevent accidents by raising awareness about recreational activities like hunting in the area.

Dining Hall vaccinations mark onset of flu season

More than 250 College community members received vaccinations against the flu last week at stations that nurses from the Parton Health Center set up in each of the College's three dining halls. The Health Center said Wednesday that this year's flu has already been confirmed on campus, and added that Nurses will continue to supply students with vaccinations at Parton.

The vaccination, which costs twenty dollars, has been offered at the College every year that it has been available.

Associate Director of Parton Health Center Terry Jenny noted that students are one of the at-risk groups for catching the flu.

"We ordered and received 1,000 doses of vaccine this year," Jenny said, but it would be "unprecedented" if all were used. Last year the Parton Health Center used only 225 doses of vaccine. The students who choose not to get vaccinated, Jenny said, usually do so because of the cost of the vaccine or doubts that the shot was necessary.

Aside from "bona-fide" religious or philosophical reasons, Jenny said, there is no reason to not get vaccinated. The flu, although usually lasting only a few days, can last much longer and turn into pneumonia. Getting vaccinated is extremely effective, but cannot prevent other "flu-like" sicknesses. For this reason, Jenny said, it is important that students remember to wash their hands, stay home when sick, eat healthily and get enough sleep.

Student organizers to host weekend workshop on race

This weekend the College will host "Double Standards of Justice: A Weekend Workshop on Race, Class and the Death Penalty." The student-organized event will include a film screening, guest lecture by political analyst Ryan King and a keynote address by Darby Tillis titled "From Death to Life: The Horrors of Death Row."

All events are free and open to the public.

Senior green funds green gift

By Michelle Constant
Staff Writer

The Class of 2007 will present the College with an environmental fund for green initiatives on campus as its senior gift, the Senior Committee announced last Friday. Called The Green Fund, the gift will support projects including biomass incentives, carbon neutralization efforts and the organic garden.

Seniors voted last week on a list of proposed gifts suggested by students. The list included the Green Fund, a wall-mounted clock for the New Library, contributions to the Hillcrest Environmental Center or the Axinn Center at Starr Library, wireless Internet in Axinn or Hillcrest, scholarship money for future students or a donation to the annual fund, which is responsible for seven percent of the College's direct operating expenses.

According to Leigh Polfer '07 and Brett Swenson '07, the co-chairs of the Senior Committee, close to 500 seniors voted on the class gift, making it one of the largest turnouts in years. Annual Giving Officer Heidi Webb said the Green Fund won with 146 votes. A new library clock came in a close second, down by 20 votes, while the number of votes for the other gifts fell within a lower range, with wireless Internet receiving the fewest number of votes.

Webb said that seniors a few years ago donated a clock for McCardell Bicentenial Hall and said that the Green Fund is a more original gift. Webb also said that the Class of 2007 is known as "the green class," and that this fund was a characteristic choice that is "going to be a really great gift to the College." She said that the endowed fund "will benefit any project to help [the College] achieve greater goals of making the campus more sustainable," encompassing projects like the Hillcrest Environmental Center.

According to Polfer, the environmental fund will consist of the seed money to begin a fund that will grow over time as continual alumni donations accumulate. The goal of the Senior Committee is for the fund to eventually reach $10 million. Polfer hopes that this fund will serve as "a model for all other environmentally conscious colleges."

Swenson believes that the Green Fund is "one of the greatest senior gifts the school has ever received" and is honored that this gift will be associated with her senior class.

Other seniors, however, were not as content with the chosen senior gift. Mateo Fisher '07 voted for the scholarship money. Fisher said, "we must take measures to ensure that anyone that can add to the [College's] culture, regardless of financial means, has the opportunity to be here." Fisher also expressed a strong belief that the library clock was not a useful choice for students.

Micah Gurard-Levin '07 thought that it is "important to pick a class gift that contributes to the student experience on campus" and to give back to the College community for all of the ways it has benefited the seniors during their four-year tenure. Gurard-Levin said that although supporting environmental issues is important for the global community, contributing to the construction of the Axinn Center would have been a more "meaningful gift to help maintain the historical significance of that building."

Ilhan Kim
The Green Fund will help to facilitate projects such as the Hillcrest Environmental Center.

Traveling Winter Term class preludes influx of trips in '08

By Akshay Khanna
Staff Writer

The College will offer multiple courses that will venture off-campus during Winter Term beginning in January 2008 after the Standing Parents Committee raised money for class travel, President of the College Ronald D. Liebowitz announced at the Nov. 6 faculty meeting. The increase in traveling Winter Term courses comes after only one class being offered this January will allow students to study off-campus.

Liebowitz's announcement of an increase in traveling courses, which had been more prominent in previous years, was met with widespread praise from the faculty.

"Off-campus winter term courses were tremendously successful in the past, and the faculty responded to the announcement of their return with enthusiasm," said Dean of Curriculum Bob Cluss.

This year, only one course offered for Winter Term will allow students to travel off-campus for study. "Deconstructing Discrimination," taught by Assistant Professor of Economics Caitlin Myers, will feature two field trips during the term that will allow students to conduct research for a class project.

Through the class, Myers is seeking to encourage students to take a more analytical approach towards their definition of discrimination and hopes that, "after reading articles on previous studies on discrimination, the students will be able to reach their own conclusions of what qualifies as a discriminatory practice."

Regarding the one field trip that the class will be taking to Boston over a weekend during the term, Myers emphasized the necessity of getting off-campus to conduct the class project, saying "Middlebury is a rather insulated and rural environment with relatively little diversity as compared to a metropolis like Boston."

"The College was extremely supportive of my idea for the class to travel to Boston," Myers said when asked about the difficulties that she might have had in getting permission to take students to Boston. "There were no issues that were brought up that were against the prospect of students leaving campus for academic purposes."

Alex Hall '08.5, who will be taking the class this winter, endorsed the course's offering of off-campus study. "Since the point of the class is to design and conduct a research project on racial discrimination, I would think it difficult to study race-related issues in Vermont since the state has so little racial diversity," said Hall. Plans for the class project are twofold, comprising of an observational section as well as a student trial. One of Myers' ideas is to observe whether customers at fast-food restaurants match-up and queue in line behind the cashiers who best reflect their own racial, ethnic or gender characteristics.

Myers explained that this class was a great opportunity for the students to observe these subtle, or in some cases blatant, behavioral differences and decide whether they qualify as discrimination.

Although "Deconstructing Discrimination" is the only course on offer for Winter Term in 2007 that involves study outside the Middlebury area, this is not the first time that a Winter Term class will be leaving campus for academic-related activities. Last year, Associate Professor of American Studies William Nash took a Winter Term class titled "Katrina and Its Aftermath" to New Orleans to study first-hand the devastating effects of Hurricane Katrina and the state of New Orleans in the deadly aftermath of the storm.

Additional reporting by Zamir Ahmed.

Security supported for dining halls

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

think is a bad thing," said Annie Williams '07, student co-chair of Community Council.

While the group did not come up with a definite proposal for the type of system to be used in the building, the Council did decide that the measure is a necessary step to reduce theft. It also discussed the possibility of using cameras from the Museum of Art or installing new cameras in the building that would be connected to the museum system.

A similar measure was passed by the Student Government Association two years ago that called for the installation of cameras in Proctor on a four-month trial basis. Many students, however, objected to the idea, citing apprehension over the precedent that would be set and encouraged other less intrusive alternatives to protect student property. The student movement ultimately defeated the measure and no cameras were installed in the dining hall.

Members of the Council felt that students should understand that the cameras would not be used to monitor them and is a strong step towards reducing theft.

"Ideally, we wouldn't need cameras at all, but with the increasing amount of thefts that have occurred over the past few months outside the dining halls, doing nothing would be negligent," said Atyia. "I hope students will realize the cameras are designed to provide a safer environment and not to infringe upon their privacy."

"It is unclear whether or not the people who are stealing belongings are members of the College community," said Williams. "It is our hope that these cameras will help determine the nature of these thefts. The footage from the cameras will be accessed only in the event of a reported theft, so I do not believe that the installation of cameras is a cause for concern."

Some members of the Council expressed unease about the decision.

I was against the cameras because it seems to be a more aggresive measre than locking Atwater and I still am hopeful that the community can deal with theft without resorting to security cameras.

— Peyton Coles '08.5

"I guess I was against the cameras because it seems to be a more aggressive measure than locking Atwater and I was, and still am, hopeful that the community can deal with theft without resorting to security cameras," said Coles.

"I hope it gets people talking about the ways in which we as a community want to address the security of our campus," Coles cautioned. "The dialogue that surfaced in the wake of the similar Community Council discussion a couple years back served as a good indicator of how our community felt about this issue, and I think those with concerns should raise them."

In addition to the installation of cameras and the locking of Atwater, the Council also passed other recommendations to reduce campus theft. The recommendations support everything from the continued monitoring of theft on campus by Public Safety, to the posting of signs in the Student Mail Center reminding students to lock their mailboxes after retrieving their mail.

The reminder would come after an increase in thefts this semester of employment checks and mail from student mailboxes.

The recommendation also calls for a reminder to students about taking advantage of direct deposit payments available through the Student Employment Office.

"The Council has developed some sound ideas that I believe balance the need to protect personal property while keeping the campus a place where the community members feel as if they can live their lives without being over encumbered by security concerns," said Assistant Professor of Psychology Matthew Kimble, a Council faculty representative.

The Council believes that the recommendations will send a strong message to the community about the increase of theft on campus this semester and will reassure students with concerns about safety.

"Students can be sure that [campus] theft will neither be tolerated nor treated lightly," explained Atyia.

Student task force ups social life ante

By Kelly Janis
STAFF WRITER

The Social Life Task Force committee met last week to discuss a potential campus-wide survey intended to solicit ideas and input from students with reference to relevant social issues. The committee hopes to spark dialogue about pertinent issues regarding Middlebury's social climate.

"The committee is working to write a report which evaluates social life on campus and makes specific recommendations to the President and Board of Trustees," explained the Task Force's student head, Sam Temes '07. "As of now, we are planning on presenting our report to them in February. The committee's report is the first stage in a more comprehensive initiative to improve Middlebury's social life."

The distribution of an all-campus survey, Temes said, is aimed at amassing "supportive evidence" for recommendations which the Task Force intends to make. "We have also discussed having a forum during the first part of Winter Term to share some of the work we have done and collect more feedback," Temes added. "Much of the work we have done thus far has been based on brainstorming that took place last spring with a group of students selected by the administration."

Among the challenges that the Task Force faces are perceptions from the College community of its inefficiency. "The committee has made and continues to make substantive progress," Temes insisted. "While our work may not be immediately visible to the student body, our task has been to evaluate and suggest change in the form of a formal report to be delivered to the Board of Trustees." Temes said that it is not the Task Force's obligation to "implement change, 'solve' problems or make ongoing recommendations." Instead, the group strives to represent student interests and voice student concerns.

In the course of meetings this fall, the committee has elected to focus on three chief areas. The first concerns the regulations governing registered and catered on-campus parties. "We have discussed suggesting the use of the bracelet system at more events as opposed to beer gardens to facilitate more mixing between over and under-aged students," Temes said.

Nikhil Ramburn

Part of the new survey distributed by the Social Life Task Force committee involves the possibility of a new social space strictly for student use to allow for more social integration.

The utilization of assorted social spaces is also a matter of debate. According to Temes, the committee has entertained the prospect of "suggesting to the board the creation of a new social space, strictly for student social use."

Finally, the task force has weighed the streamlining of social programming. Perhaps, Temes said, it would be prudent to craft "a student position, separate from the Student Government Association or Middlebury College Activities Board, to help manage a campus-wide social schedule and coordinate more co-sponsored and larger events."

Student opinion on the distribution of such a survey and the potential implementation of such policies was divided. Will Surrette '10 said he was not convinced of the effectiveness of the avenues being pursued.

"Any organization dedicated to somehow bettering, improving or altering the social lives of students is pointless and this College is wasting money on it," he said.

Other students, however, were more optimistic. "It's refreshing that the College is receptive to students' needs," Jenn Giammattei '10 said. "I think it's a worthwhile effort."

OVERSEAS BRIEFING

By Alpheus Chan

RUSSIA — What a ridiculous place. Russia is every bit as weird as you imagine it to be, and it makes for great traveling and amazing stories. My recent 11-day tour started in St. Petersburg. Peter the Great invited famous Italian architects to help him build the city, which makes St. Petersburg look more like an Italian city than a Russian city. Behind the facade of the beautiful neo-classical buildings, however, is a city that is poor and ill-maintained. Looking past the initial illusion, you can still see the remnants of the devastating conditions that resulted from Soviet Rule. It is not hard to see why Dostoevsky called St. Petersburg the most artificial city in the world. Being in St. Petersburg is an eye-opening experience.

One of the most interesting features of St. Petersburg is its metro system. The metro in Russia serves a dual purpose of metro and bomb shelter. It is built extremely deep underground. In order to get to the platform, you need to take a giant escalator that takes about the minutes to get to the bottom. The platform itself is also beautifully decorated with columns and arches, and even paintings on the roof.

Although I try not to sound like a guidebook, I cannot help but comment on the Winter Palace and Hermitage Museum in St. Petersburg, which is now my favorite museum in the world. I think it is even more impressive than the Louvre — in fact, there is really no comparison. Just the building itself is so decadently decorated that it is easy to see why the Russian people wanted to overthrow the tsars. There are numerous rooms with gold-plated walls and ceilings, and nearly every room has giant crystal chandeliers. The "wow" factor in this museum is definitely a perfect 10.

Our tour organized local student guides to take us around St. Petersburg, which gave us a really cool, in-depth look into what living in St. Petersburg is really like. He showed us all the cool spots around town. We got to see St. Petersburg from a perspective that only a handful of foreigners have ever seen. So, on the roof we sat, just hanging out and drinking some vodka and cognac, enjoying the beautiful, freezing cold day in Russia. I never would've imagined being able to do something like that, especially in Russia. It was amazing.

My next stop was Moscow. Moscow is certainly a more built-up and prosperous city than St. Petersburg, although it is probably the worst-designed city ever. Whoever designed Moscow clearly did not have accessibility in mind. Moscow is formed out of giant concentric circles, with its center being the Kremlin and the Red Square. Walking away from the center in any direction, one hits the boulevard ring, the garden ring, the giant highwayesque road at the edge and numerous other rings circling the city. In between these rings, you have all these confusing small streets connecting everything together. Navigating around Moscow was a nightmare, and my inability to read Russian did not help.

We got to Moscow just in time to see its first snow, and seeing Russia in the snow is kind of mystical, the way you would imagine Russia to be. Maybe it was the snow, but I loved Moscow a lot more than St. Petersburg. It was amazing walking around the city and seeing the Kremlin and the Red Square in snow. Although Moscow may not be as extravagant as the Winter Palace, the sights are a lot more impressive as Moscow is the place where it all happened.

COLLEGE SHORTS

BY KATHRYN FLAGG

American students broaden horizons

More American college students are choosing to study abroad in exotic, non-English speaking locations, according to figures released Monday by the Institute of International Education. Although Britain remains the most popular choice for the 8 percent of college students who study abroad, the study reports that the popularity of programs in non-English speaking European countries and in Asia is on the rise.

China is now the 8th most popular destination for American students, seeing a 35 percent increase in U.S. exchange students from the previous year. Argentina and India, although attracting only around 2,000 students apiece, each saw increases of more than 50 percent.

Allan Goodman, president of the Institute, attributes the trend to a range of factors from the growing awareness of globalization to programs such as the Bush administration's National Security Language Initiative.

"What Americans are doing is waking up and discovering there's a world out there," he told CNN.

—CNN.com

Bowdoin nears $250 million benchmark

Bowdoin College publicly launched a $250 million capital campaign Friday, kicking off what officials believe will be the largest fundraising drive in Maine history, according to *The Bowdoin Orient*.

The college's fundraising coincides with drives at other Maine NESCAC colleges. Last year, Bates College completed its own capital campaign, raising $120 million after their 2000 launch, and nearby Colby College launched a $235 million campaign in January of this year.

"The Bowdoin Campaign," as the school has dubbed the drive, has already raised 60 percent of the campaign's total goal during the "silent phase" of the campaign, the school announced Friday. The drive targets financial aid as its primary goal, striving to raise nearly $77 million for tuition aid. The college also hopes to fund 12 new faculty positions, fund building projects currently in progress and support the institution's operation budget.

Friday's launch marked the halfway point in the campaign, *The Orient* reported, which is slated for completion in June 2009.

—The Bowdoin Orient

Cognitively disabled pursue higher ed

More students with Down syndrome and other cognitive disabilities are pursuing higher education, *The New York Times* reported earlier this month. Despite difficulties facing students with lower than average cognitive abilities, more individuals and their families who have grown up in the wake of the 1975 Individuals with Disabilities Education Act are exploring postgraduate education opportunities.

The Web site ThinkCollege.net, a database of higher education financed by the United States Department of Education, lists 106 programs that place cognitively disabled students in classrooms and sometimes in university dormitories. Current programs vary significantly, ranging from vocational training to associate degree programs, but according to an education specialist at the Institute for Community Inclusion, the number of such programs is growing every year.

Although many parents and educators extol the social and experiential merits of higher education, practical concerns also fuel the growing interest in education for individuals with cognitive disabilities. The National Down Syndrome Society reports, however, that the quality and quantity of jobs for people with cognitive disabilities increase with postsecondary education.

—The New York Times

Students take stand against professorship

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"When donors come forward to endow future professorships, I will suggest they consider naming their professorships for distinguished individuals, and I will provide the names of individuals who are our current students would like to see honored," Liebowitz said. "I reminded the students that we did not go out seeking an endowed professorship for former Chief Justice Rehnquist."

The administration would not consider changing the Rehnquist professorship to another important figure, however.

"[The President] would not go beyond the idea of Rehnquist being a scholar of the Constitution," said Lobel. "He accepted the anonymous donation of someone who wanted the gift dedicated to Rehnquist."

Liebowitz said that the College wanted to work constructively with students who cared about the issue, and hoped that students would take the time to learn all they could about the issues at stake.

"I support strongly students who come forward to challenge things that are going on here on campus and in the larger world," said Liebowitz. "When they do exercise their right to challenge, however, they ought to be well versed in the issue, not simply eager to chant the mantra of a particular political viewpoint."

Protest leader Alexandra Garcia '08.5 said that "Liebowitz hasn't given us a time frame [for creating professorships named with student input]. He said he will work with us and we're relying on that commitment."

Garcia said that the administration had been very helpful on certain issues related to the protest but seemed to work against students on others. "It's hard to tell with the administration," she said. "The meeting went very well but other than that we are not satisfied. The administration has also prevented us from spreading the word by not allowing us to send a campus-wide e-mail."

At the protest, students chanted their objections to the scholarship and displayed a banner with the words "Rehnquist Does Not Represent Us" in spray paint. Students and several faculty members chanted against sexism, racism and homophobia, in addition to other contentious issues during the hour-long event.

The point was to do something. I wish everyone would take a stand on the issues they care about.
— Louis Lobel '08.5

Dean of the College Tim Spears said the administration respects students' right to protest the creation of the professorship.

"The free expression of ideas and political perspectives is a vital part of academic culture and the traditions of the campus," said Spears. "I would not say that the administration 'encourages' students to protest in this manner but it respects their right to do so."

Lobel delivered a speech decrying the professorship as going against his values.

"Many see Rehnquist as a scholar of the Constitution," said Lobel. "I respect Justice Rehnquist for his scholarly works but a certain number of his views are immoral."

Liebowitz agreed that a thoughtful consideration of Rehnquist's scholarship and his record was crucial.

"Demonstration and protest demands understanding the issues," Liebowitz said, "lest the calls for change be based more on emotion and politics and less on the soundness of the viewpoint and the best of what the open exchange of ideas can bring to a community like this one."

Following Lobel's speech, several students offered spoken word performances on the creation of the professorship. Finally, students were asked to leave their own comments on the professorship on the banner. Lobel said he hoped the protest would encourage other students to get more involved and fight for issues that they care about.

"There is no real presence here that stands up on campus and no one fights back," said Lobel. "The point was to do something. I wish everyone would take a stand on the issues they care about."

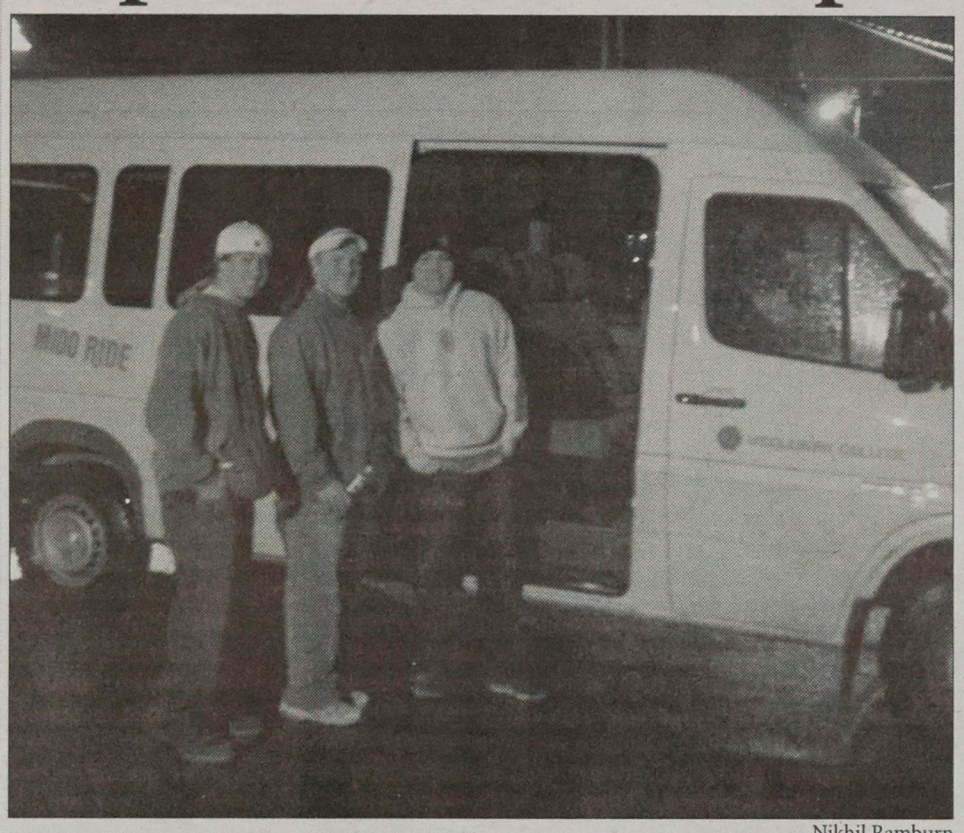
Protestor Nick Cloutier '08 said that the administration should acknowledge the validity of student claims that the Rehnquist professorship is inconsistent with the College's mission statement.

"I hope that when inconsistencies are pointed out in their mission statement that they will be [accounted for]," said Cloutier.

Other students agreed, hoping the administration noticed the level of student awareness on the professorship.

"This campus needs to have some representation," protestor Will Hunt '08 said. "I'd hope they are noticing that we're speaking out. That's why we're here."

Popular shuttle keeps on trucking



Nikhil Ramburn

Midd Rides' service will expand its route to town and once again take calls from students

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

operational strategies within Midd Rides. Combining the services, however, placed additional stress on Public Safety's staff.

The Department of Public Safety is currently accepting applications for the dispatch position. The call-in program will resume once the job is filled, but according to Gutierrez, there has been no shortage of Midd Rides riders, even with the temporary lapse in phone service.

"Usually I pick up between 20 to 40 people in a night," he said. Ridership has increased dramatically since the late 1990s, when the program was first created. Today, according to data provided by the Department of Public Safety, Midd Rides chauffeurs an average of over 17,000 students per year. The service has provided more than 2,000 rides this fall alone.

"The weather makes it more difficult for students to walk," said Boudah, explaining that she expects the use of Midd Rides to skyrocket within the next few months.

For those on the ground, however, ridership is already up. "We've gotten 71, 71 and 72 riders in the past three Thursdays," said Lohman, who enjoys his job. "It's a lot of fun. I just plug an iTrip into my iPod and rock out with my partner."

public safety log

NOVEMBER 7, 2006 TO NOVEMBER 12, 2006

DATE	TIME	INCIDENT	CATEGORY	LOCATION	DISPOSITION
11/7/2006	N/A	Theft	Credit Card and Personal Items	McCullough Student Center	Referred to MPD
11/8/06	7:30 p.m.	Theft	MIDD Card, Backpack and contents	Proctor	Referred to MPD
11/8/06	11:45 p.m.	Vandalism	Bike	Atwater Hall A	Referred to Commons Dean
11/9/06	9:25 p.m.	Theft	Fire Extinguisher	Kelly	Referred to Commons Dean
11/10/06	5:45 p.m.	Theft	Backpack	Natatorium	Referred to MPD
11/10/06	5:20 p.m.	Theft	Wallet	Memorial Field House	Referred to MPD
11/10/06	11:25 p.m.	Drug Violation	Marijuana	N/A	Referred to Commons Dean
11/11/06	3:36 p.m.	Vandalism	Vehicle	R lot	Referred to Commons Dean
11/11/06	4:45 p.m.	Theft	Wallet	Memorial Field House	Referred to MPD

The Department of Public Safety reported giving ten alcohol citations between Nov. 7 and Nov. 12.

Midd reaches for new fundraising heights

Courtesy

Liebowitz, shown here at a fundraising event earlier in the year, will work with others in the administration in coming months to expand the College's donor network.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

set the current record in 2005 when it completed a campaign to raise just over $470 million.

"This is obviously a very ambitious goal for the College," Liebowitz said. "We're talking about something that is unprecedented for a liberal arts college."

Ann Crumb, associate vice president for College Advancement, explained that the College is now in a pre-campaign phase dedicated to ensuring that $500 million represents an appropriate goal. Liebowitz confirmed that this "silent phase" of the campaign has already yielded over $200 million in pledges.

"The President and others are speaking with many of our trustees and potential donors who are closest to the College to discuss the impact their financial support could have and determine their level of funding," said Crumb.

Rather than simply adding to the College's endowment, pledges from the new campaign would also support a host of initiatives approved last spring in the new Strategic Plan. In addition to construction projects like the one now underway for the Donald E. Axinn '51 Center for Literary and Cultural Studies at Starr Library and another to build an environmentally friendly power plant on campus, Liebowitz and the trustees hope to increase direct financial aid grants by up to $2,000 per student, add at least 25 new faculty positions and to construct new housing for the completion of the Commons system.

"The College needs a highly successful campaign to achieve the strategic goals that have now been embraced by the President and the Board of Trustees," said Dean of Planning and Secretary of the College John Emerson, who chaired the Strategic Planning Committee last spring. "We need a successful campaign if we are to continue Middlebury's rise to the very highest ranks of liberal arts colleges."

Liebowitz and others emphasized that the College hopes to reach out to both new individuals and other institutions in seeking support for initiatives like improved student aid and study abroad efforts.

"I am committed, as I said from the start of my presidency, to building relationships with other institutions and collaborating with them to help us achieve our goals of providing our students with the best possible educational experience and our alumni with the strongest network for their post-Middlebury lives," said Liebowitz.

Other institutions, Liebowitz explained, might range from neighborhood organizations like the Harlem Educational Assistance Fund to major universities, which together would provide the support necessary to further improve diversity on campus and expand internship opportunities abroad.

Emerson said that this early phase has gone well.

"Middlebury is already off to a very strong start in the forthcoming campaign," Emerson said. "There are many alumni and friends of the College who generously support the College and who are deeply committed to the College and especially to its students."

Challenges do remain, however, and those involved in the process readily acknowledge.

"One particular challenge is in making our loyal supporters and potential contributors realize that much of our fundraising needs to be in the form of gifts to endow important initiatives in perpetuity," Emerson explained. "When we add a faculty position, we will be committed to it indefinitely and we need the resources to support it in the long run."

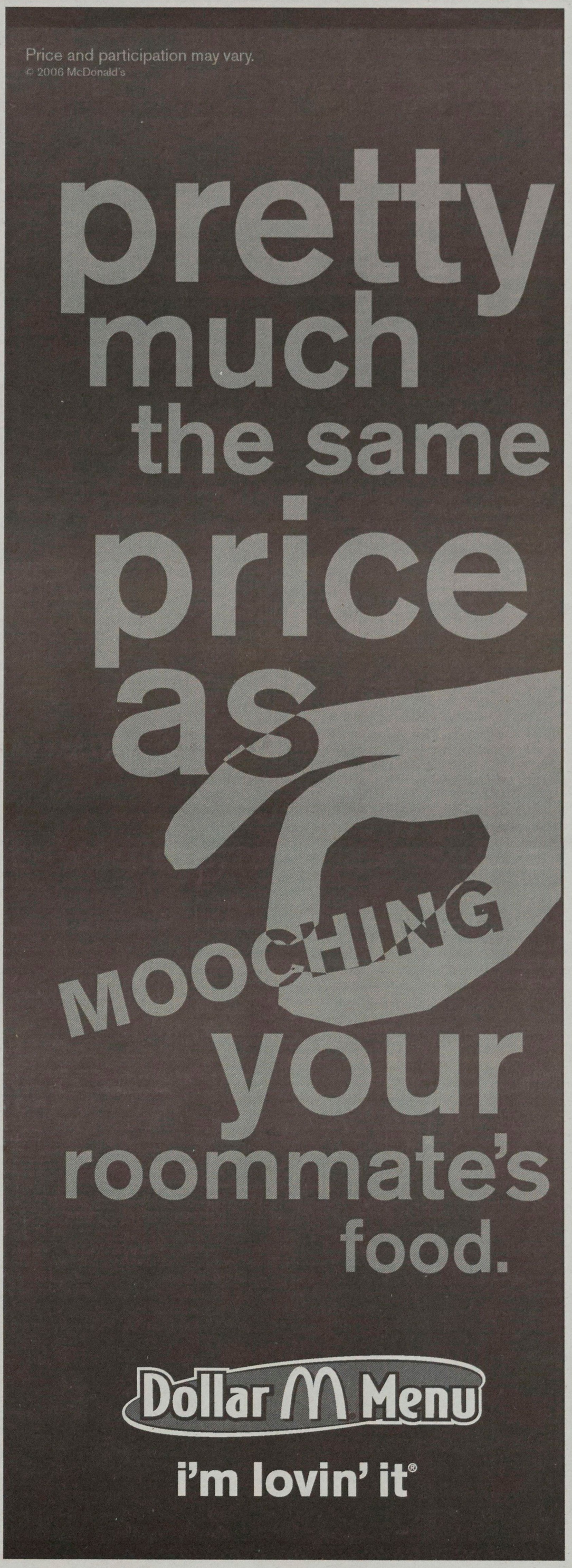
According to Liebowitz, each new professorship requires an added $2.5 million in endowment to support.

An official announcement of the campaign and its exact monetary goal is expected for the fall of 2007.

Inside the NESCAC Coffers

As the College launches its unprecedent capital campaign, the school joins the ranks of fellow NESCAC schools in the pursuit of record funding:

- **Bowdoin College** launched its $250 million capital campaign earlier this month, kicking off what it predicts will be the largest fundraising drive in Maine history.
- **Tufts University** unveiled an ambitious $1.2 billion drive this month after raising over $600 million in the "silent phase" of the campaign.
- In January of this year, **Colby College** announced plans for a $235 million drive.


Price and participation may vary.
© 2006 McDonald's
pretty much the same price as MOOCHING your roommate's food.
Dollar Menu
i'm lovin' it®

localnews

7
GET OUT YOUR RIFLES
DEER SEASON HITS VERMONT WITH A BANG

'TIL DEATH DO US PART
POLI SCI PROFESSOR REVEALS DOUBLE LIFE AS JUSTICE OF THE PEACE

Yak Adventure offers tales and trinkets from Tibet

By Andrea Glaessner
Local News Editor

Lizzy Zevallos
The inside of Chophel's store is filled with Tibetan objects, from miniature Buddha statues to colorful scarves.

I recently heard through the grapevine about a shop near the Middlebury Co-op called Yak Adventure. The "grapevine" claimed is was owned by a Tibetan refugee named Tenzin Chophel. A Tibetan in Middlebury, VT? That was enough intrigue to get me to stop by the shop.

I entered Yak Adventure expecting an outdoors store, since the title of the shop seems to hint in that direction, and left with incense in hand and ideas in my head of how to acquire my own Tibetan singing bowl. The first moment of awe occurred when I got past the door and, instead of kayaks and ski jackets, I found Buddha. Tens of miniature Buddhas made from metal, wood and other materials sat comfortably on shelves on one side of the store, staring blankly ahead, focused on something I could not even begin to understand in my short visit.

INVESTIGATING VERMONT

I stopped, mesmerized by all these figurines, and perhaps also recovering from the surprise of discovering something entirely different from what I had envisioned. I turned to face the front of the store and saw a man standing behind the cash register. Dressed in a black leather jacket and corduroys, this man could have been any Middlebury shop owner.

He looked up, and I realized now was a good time to talk, before another customer walked in, so I walked over and introduced myself. The man standing at the front of the store was Tenzin Chophel, store owner of Yak Adventure. Chophel's introduction revealed that he is husband to co-owner Nancy Lindberg, the father of two children and the son of Tibetan refugees who fled to Dharamsala in Northern India.

My first post-introduction question was pretty obvious – why and how did he come to Middlebury? Chophel explained this, saying his wife, Nancy, is a native Vermonter who had visited Dharamsala as part of a student travel program and returned to the States in 1992 with more than a little piece of Tibetan culture. She also toted home her husband, Tenzin.

The couple settled in Burlington where they met the roughly 100 other Tibetan refugees who settled in Vermont's most cosmopolitan city. According to Chophel, the Tibetans living in Burlington came from countries including India, Europe and Tibet.

Chophel handed me a brochure of one of his Burlington Tibetan friends who owns the motel in South Burlington called G.G.T. Tibet Inn on Route 7. Flipping through the brochure offers just one example of the amazing endurance displayed by the exiled Tibetan community in the battle for Tibetan freedom.

According to the hotel's brochure, G.G.T. stands from *Gangjong Gesar Tsang*, the name for the Tibetan homeland followed by the name of a heroic Tibetan historical figure and topped off with the Tibetan word for family and home. As the brochure explains, "together these words are an expression of the best in Tibetan culture and of hope for the future of Tibet."

Even a South Burlington hotel brochure contains Tibetan political propaganda, proving that Tibetans are so intertwined with their land that they will use every venue to promote the autonomy of Tibet and its leader, the Dalai Lama. Even after they fled or were exiled from their own homes when the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) began to force Tibetans to recognize the Chinese government and to assimilate to the mainland Chinese way of life, Tibetans continue to fight for autonomy and the return of the Dalai Lama no matter whether they end up in Dharamsala, India or South Burlington, Vermont.

Chophel never physically experienced living in his homeland under CCP rule. His parents fled to Darhamsala, to where the Dalai Lama had been exiled, before Chophel was born. But some of his other family members were not so fortunate. Chophel explained, "My uncle was killed by the Chinese because he worked for the Tibetan government."

Chophel's uncle worked for the government in Tibet before 1950 when the CCP entered the Tibetan area of Chamdo and began efforts to push out the Dalai Lama and replace him with their own CCP cadres. His aunt was killed when she was admitted into a hospital for treatment of a minor illness and had her kidneys stolen.

Fortunately, Chophel's life in Darhamsala was less tragic. Chophel said that although Indian and Tibetan Buddhism have some differences, particularly in terms of religious practices, Tibetans were able to assimilate quite peacefully into life in Northern India. As a child, Chophel said he went to school and learned both Tibetan and Hindi, and he and his family were free to practice their religion and Tibetan way of life without any interference.

Chophel made it clear that it was not necessarily an ethnic conflict that was so disturbing to his family living under CCP occupation. Chophel explained, "The problem in Tibet is not with the Chinese people, but with the Chinese government. The government should tell the truth to the world. The Dalai Lama tells the truth. I always say tell the truth. The truth is all we need."

Today, Chophel loves to share the rich Tibetan culture he experienced during his time in Darhamsala.

As we walked around the shop, Chophel led me to a table covered with Tibetan singing bowls of all different sizes and adorned with intricate designs. He first gave me a demonstration of how to use a singing bowl, and then waited patiently as I tried to copy him, showing me how to concentrate my energy in my wrist and to put pressure on the silver bowl's wide rim. As I moved the cylindrical instrument around the bowl's rim, I built a huge, beautiful sound that sent vibrations shooting up my arm and filling my ears, totally drowning out the lull of outside traffic and the hum of the air conditioner in the shop.

Yak Adventure is stocked with all kinds of Indian and Tibetan objects, all of which were purchased in India on Chophel's annual trips. The store is stocked with incense, Tibetan prayer flags, stunning jewelry and rich Kashmir scarves. Chophel explained that he likes to go to India to support local artists.

Even when he shops in Vermont, Chophel stays true to his desire to support local businesses. Chophel said, "I never go to Walmart first because I don't support it, since a lot of things are made for a very low price in China because they pay the workers a very low price, and second because it really gives me a headache with all those cars and shopping carts. It's just too much."

From time to time, Chophel travels to nearby schools and educates students about his culture. Many students from Middlebury who have visited Tibet or Darhamsala come by the shop and visit with the owner, telling their own stories of Chophel's homeland which he has still never seen for political reasons. But even if you have never been to Tibet or "Poeh," which is the best way I can describe the sound Chophel made when I asked how to say Tibet in Tibetan, visiting Yak Adventure is a must.

IP calls off controversial test burn

By Andrea Glaessner
Local News Editor

Last Tuesday, International Paper announced its decision to conclude the highly controversial test burn at its Ticonderoga, N.Y. mill one week earlier than they had originally planned. According to IP's press release, "Preliminary test data indicates that long-term use of tire-derived fuel would not be economically feasible at the time." The press release did not elaborate on why the burn was deemed economically unfeasible on a long-term basis. IP's vague explanation of the test burn's abrupt conclusion has allowed some environmental activists to assume IP's decision was a consequence of the pressure they put on the firm in the form of protests and vociferous emails.

Barbara Ernst of the Northeast Clean Air Act said that she was under this impression. In an email, Ernst wrote, "Although the spin in the official press release says [the test was] not economically feasible, the real reason is because the overwhelming toxic pollution created from burning tires without industry standard pollution controls…was so vocally objected by the citizens of Vermont and our local senators and representatives and federal senators and representatives, environmental groups, farms, citizens across the state and region and country."

Contrary to Ernst' argument, Donna Wadsworth, the Ticonderoga mill's communications and environmental manager, was quoted in the Tuesday press release explaining that the goals of the burn had been achieved. Wadsworth wrote, "This trial has allowed us to assess the economics without compromising our pledge to operate in compliance. This project has confirmed the integrity of the permitting process and the roles of the agencies that administer the regulations and the courts that upheld the right to conduct this alternative fuel evaluation."

Ernst insisted that the Northeast Clean Air Coalition will continue with an investigation of the test burn to confirm Wadsworth's statements that the project was carried out with integrity and complied with environmental protection agencies' standards.

Local hunters emerge from summer hibernation

By Dina Magaril
Local News Editor

If you're one of the hunting enthusiasts itching to get out your rifle and hunt for some big game this season, you might just have your chance. Though the two-and-a-half-month-long black bear hunting season officially ends on Nov. 15, Vermont is entering its annual rifle deer season, which runs from Nov. 11 to Nov. 25.

The regulated deer season has been a beloved traditon among hunters in Vermont for over 100 years. The white-tailed deer is an important symbol to the state of Vermont and has its own place on the Vermont state seal. But sometimes deer can pose a problem for other inhabitants in the state. According to the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department website, an abundance of deer can cause damage to Vermont's crops as well as pose a danger for vehicle collisions.

To prevent overpopulation, without risking extinction, regulated deer hunting is permitted in the state only during deer season. The website noted that about 15 percent of Vermont State residents hunt, bringing in more than 800,000 pounds of venison each year.

While some hunters are lured to the sport for the thrill of the chase, Eric Quesel, a bow hunter from Middlebury, says he enjoys the nature aspect of deer hunting, especially the scenic spots to which many of his deer hunting trips have brought him.

"There's this swamp in Salisbury, near Creek road, which is a really good place for hunting lowland deer," said Quesel. He added that the bigger bucks were found mostly in the higher mountain areas. "Basically, wherever there are [beer nut] trees is where you'll find the deer," he added.

Quesel kindly described the entire hunt — from killing the deer to storing its meat properly. After a successful hunt, "you have to take the legs [of the deer] over your back and break the hipbone," he said. "You have to be careful when you cut into it because you don't want to hit the bladder or open up the large intestine," which would spoil the meat.

When asked how he transports such a large animal home, Quesel said he "just straps it on top of [his] car." The last phase of keeping the meat fresh involves deep-freezing it, a process that allows the meat to keep for as long as a year.

With temperatures that are especially warm for this time of year, hunters have to take extra care to freeze their meat as soon as possible. Warm weather causes the meat to spoil at a much faster pace.

For some Vermont hunters, the hunting season is a time for celebration. One avid hunter is known for throwing an annual "game" party at his home each year. Nate Davis, who is not a hunter but had the good fortune to be a party attendee, spoke about the hunting extravaganzas at the party host's home. "Everyone brings the meat [they caught] to Bruce's and he slaughters it for them."

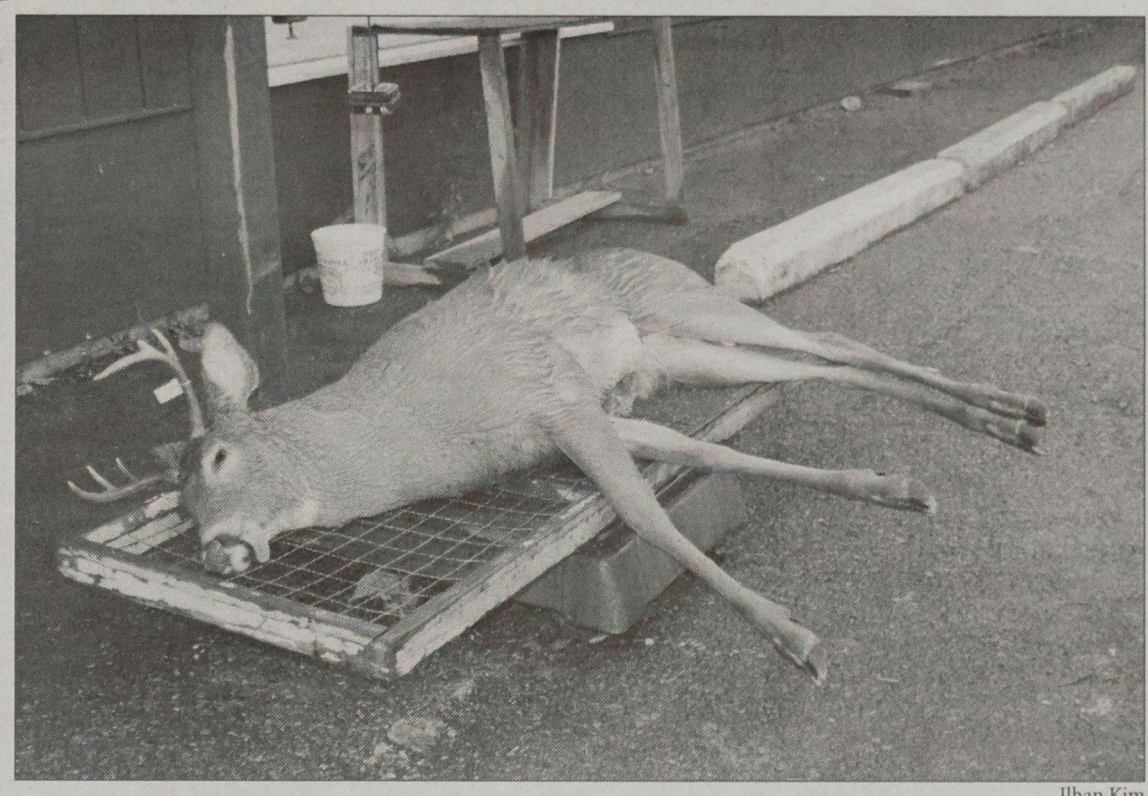
As compensation for this rather messy service, Bruce is given a portion of meat from each hunter's catch. "It's just a bunch of hunters cooking food, playing cards, drinking beers and talking about hunting," said Bruce's son Mike, who has attended a number of these feasts over the years.

Though Mike no longer hunts — "I don't like killing deer anymore," he says — he spoke about the process of acquiring a hunting permit. "You have to take a hunter safety course," he says, "Which is usually for a couple of hours a night and takes 4 or 5 days."

Most hunters have favorite dishes they cook every year with the fresh catch of the season. Davis shared some of his favorite game dishes, which include such delicacies as "mooseballs" (meatballs made out of moose meat), while Quesel cites venison stew, which "tastes like a chili" as one of his most memorable dishes.

Though Quesel said he has not been hunting yet this year, he admitted there was one animal he hopes he doesn't run into. "I was up in Ripton," said Quesel, "and I saw a black bear. Let's just say it wasn't a grizzly, but it wasn't too small either."

For those frightened by the prospect of hunting larger animals, there is an opportunity to hunt something on a smaller scale. Raccoon hunting season, which began on Oct. 14 and runs through Dec. 31, is a viable option for licensed hunters, though "raccoonballs" are not guaranteed to be a big hit at Bruce's annual hunter bash.



Ilhan Kim

A freshly killed deer weighs in at a solid 127-pounds outside of the Vermont field sports store on Tuesday.

Rosenberg is professor by day, but 'Justice' by night

By Kelly Janis
Staff Writer

Professor of Political Science David Rosenberg is not content living as a passive observer of politics. Even in the small town of Middlebury, Rosenberg has assumed a decidedly active role in the political sphere, serving for over thirty years as one of the town's 15 justices of the peace.

Among a justice of the peace's primary duties, the one which Rosenberg calls, "the most fun" is performing weddings and certifying marriages as an officiate. "I've done that a lot," he said, "and I love doing it." In fact, Rosenberg has married so many couples that he was able to tick off a lengthy list of his colleagues with neighboring offices in the Robert A. Jones '59 House who were married on his account.

"I've performed some wonderful weddings," he reflected warmly. The most memorable is one between two former students shortly after their graduation. "She was from Brooklyn, and he was from Shanghai. They had an interfaith wedding and marriage and household."

"For this couple, she was Jewish and he was sort of Chinese Buddhist, and his family came over from China, her family came up from New York City, and we had a wedding in three languages — English, Hebrew and Chinese through translation — under a tent. It was outside, and there was a lot of wind. A rain shower came howling through, which added a lot of drama as everybody huddled close together. But it all went off very smoothly and the sun broke out at the very end, and it made us all smile and shine," said Rosenberg.

Actually, many of the wedding ceremonies Rosenberg performs are interfaith marriages. Rosenberg explained, "There is not a priest or a rabbi or a minister in the state of Vermont or many other states who will perform interfaith weddings. Normally [couples] prefer [to wed] in their own churches, among their own congregates. You can convert, but a lot of folks don't, or don't want to. They may be spiritual, they may be religious, but they're not of the same faith. Nonetheless, they want to get married."

Justices of the peace are also charged with the bipartisan supervision of local elections. "We of course have a full-time professional town clerk who really does all the preparation and supervision work," Rosenberg said. "But we're the elected officials who make sure all goes well. And these days —especially after the 2000 presidential election — we don't take any of this for granted."

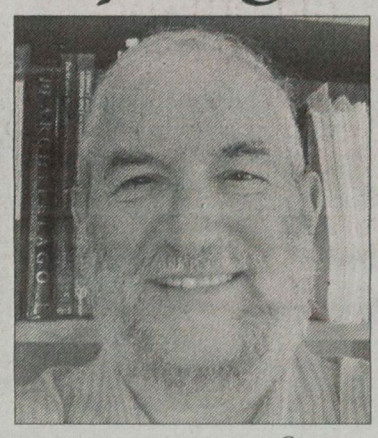
Naturally, the position carries in tow its share of challenges. Most notable among these challenges is the administration of the property tax. He explained that all property must be evaluated according to its "fair market value," the price for which it may be purchased for any personal or commercial purpose. This often poses a problem for families living on small farms. "Once upon a time, maybe the property tax made sense, when people owned and lived off their own land here," Rosenberg said. "But, nowadays, there are a lot of people who may own a lot of land, but they don't have much cash income. They're land rich and cash poor," he explained.

"So we might have an old farm family that only has one or two people left running a small farm, but it would make a great vacation home or motel or something else, so the property is reassessed upwards and becomes much more valuable."

The result is farmers being forced to subdivide their own land and sell it to developers. "That's a difficult thing to do," he admitted, "to figure out how you maintain some continuity of the community and not be completely commercialized in assessing property."

Given that matters of property tax are handled by the state legislature, justices of the peace do not have a hand in formulating the policies surrounding them. "But," he said, "we can communicate with [legislators] and we can bring to their notice specific issues that need some legislative instruction or clarification."

Ultimately, Rosenberg is heartened by the contributions which his position does, in fact, permit him to make. "I think it's important to take part in community life. This is an important way to take part in helping to keep your community alive," he said. "It's a wonderful community, so I receive an enormous benefit in doing this … I feel very much a part of this place, and want to make it a great place to live and work and shop and play."



Courtesy

Shorts in November?

Chris Heinrich

Local high schoolers enjoy a game of outdoor frisbee during the unusually warm weather this past week. Temperatures reached as high as 60 degrees last week, prompting one young man to get out his summer shorts.

Editorial

President Liebowitz's big news

News that President Ronald D. Liebowitz is considering launching one of the largest capital campaigns on record for a liberal arts college has us pretty excited. The optimism and sense of possibility projected by such an ambitious goal not only inspires our donors, but also inspires students and faculty to take pride in the College's strategic plan. If met, the half-billion dollar target would ensure that funding would not stand in the way of the President's future projects. The unprecedented campaign would also expand the College's global presence, drawing in new supporters and spurring the creation of an expanded network of donors.

President Liebowitz's prediction that a significant portion of the fundraising, roughly $225 million, will be met by the conclusion of the "silent phase," is absolutely impressive. We still wish our president were more a "man of the students," someone who casually dropped by dining halls and campus events to engage us informally and share updates and progress on his major projects, but we are nonetheless proud to learn of the accomplishments he is making "behind-the-scenes" on Middlebury's behalf.

Because the possibilities for collaboration and teamwork on the capital campaign are tremendous, we do hope that the College will continue to enlist faculty, as well as students and staff members, to represent Middlebury's past achievements and future goals. Just as these community members make the most compelling cases to apply for and matriculate into the College, we can imagine no better ambassadors for this campaign.

A half-billion dollars is a high bar to set for a small college in rural Vermont. But for a school like Middlebury, nothing less than the highest bar would seem to be enough.

How to make Midd manageable

Middlebury's academics this time of the year are hard, and that's an understatement. Some argue that having several exams to study for, a list of papers to write and hundreds of pages of reading to finish means we are getting our money's worth from our tuition. But are we really? When students begin missing paper deadlines, skimming important readings and showing up for class fully sleep-deprived, are we really getting the most out of this education?

Classes at Middlebury should be hard, but there are simple things that some professors do, and more should do, to make the hard work manageable:

While we may groan in the beginning, the most effective syllabi are frontloaded with the densest, most important reading planned for the first weeks of class. Professors with this foresight improve the quality of both student work and class discussions by laying the complex foundations of their courses early in the term.

Faculty can also help by consistently distributing discussion questions in advance of heavy reading weeks, so students know how to organize their thoughts when tackling a long reading list. Such guidelines help students without simply saying to read certain texts and breeze through others, which often leaves us wondering why we had to buy a book in the first place.

And the most helpful professors keep a constant pulse on students' performance. This could mean calling the class out when students clearly have not kept up with a week's reading, but it also means inviting students, through midterm reviews and other means, to give feedback on the workload and assignments.

As professors finish their spring syllabi, we hope they will help us make our workloads both more manageable and more meaningful.

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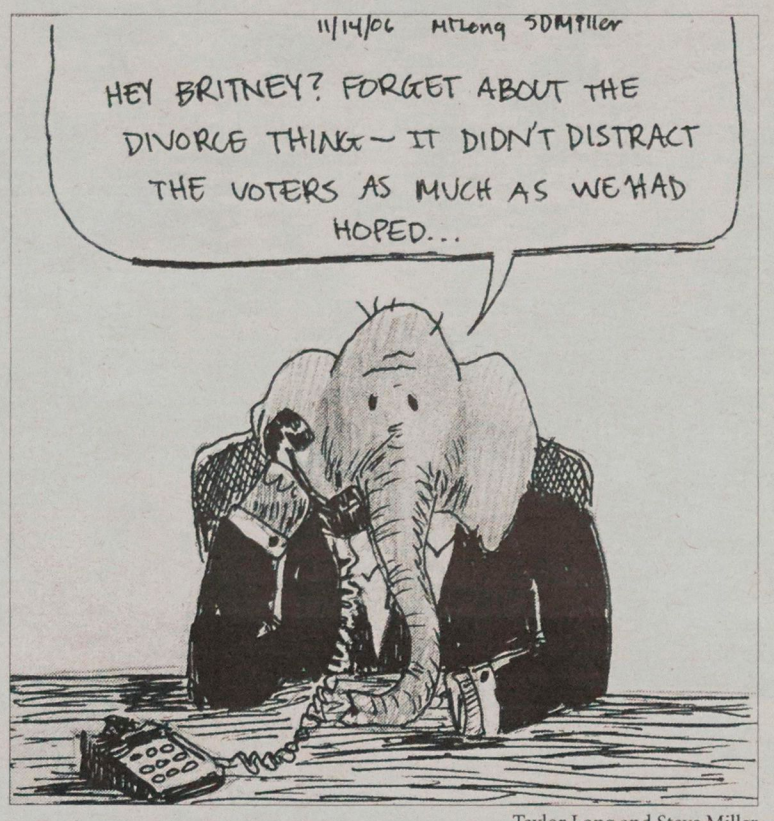
> "This is obviously a very ambitious period for the College. We're talking about something that is unprecedented for a liberal arts college."
>
> — President of the College Ronald D. Liebowitz, in reference to the College's anticipated fundraising goal of $500 million



Taylor Long and Steve Miller

Letters to the Editor

Political correctness is incorrect

To the Editor:

I just wanted to congratulate Daniel Roberts on writing his column (In My Humble Opinion, Nov. 9, 2006) on political correctness because it was the first one in a long time that made me slam the breakfast table and pump my fist in the middle of Ross dining hall last Thursday morning.

I am not saying this because I'm for being PC or non-PC. I just feel that it was high time someone talked about this at a place like Middlebury College, where everyone seems to believe they are living in a perfect little liberal world where everyone likes their neighbor, and where there aren't any built-up tensions that need to be released.

It's funny because two weekends ago I was in Burlington with some friends — three other Indians and one Canadian — and I brought this topic up because I wanted to make a joke about another friend, but immediately stopped because I realized I was one of three non-white people on almost the entire street. And it's not just about being racist/sexist/any other -ist. What I feel and what I got out of Roberts' article was that people are taking things way too seriously nowadays.

Everything said is an insult to someone's heritage. Something I find really funny is that when two international students are speaking in their native language and there is someone who does not speak that language nearby, that is also considered politically incorrect!

That aside, big ups to Roberts for talking about something everyone tries to shut up about.

Sincerely,
Ria Shroff '09
Mombai, India

Rehnquist professorship good idea

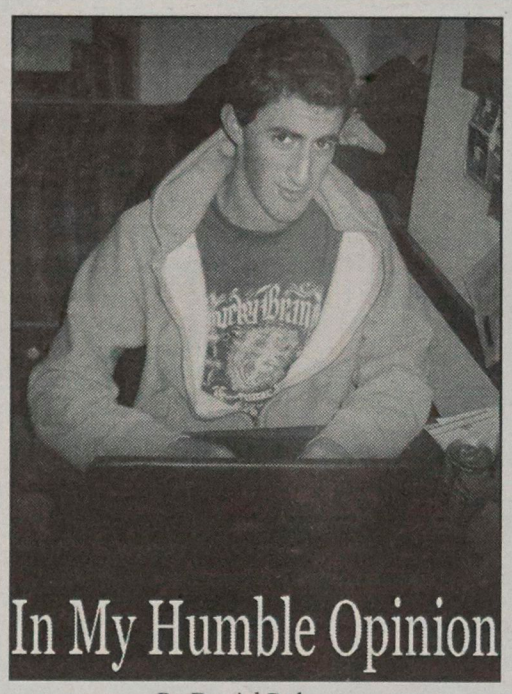
To the Editor:

I was saddened by the reaction of some Middlebury College faculty members to the establishment of a chair to honor Chief Justice William Rehnquist. I encourage them to step back and ask themselves a very fundamental question: Is Middlebury College an academic institution that fosters open and honest inquiry or one that wishes to project a "politically correct" image? I believe the former leads to greatness, the latter to mediocrity.

I did not agree with most of the Chief Justice's decisions, but I respected and admired his devotion to the Constitution. Perhaps more important, I admired his strong and unbending allegiance to the separation of powers. If anyone doubts his devotion to the separation of powers I suggest you remember his unwillingness to step aside voluntarily to allow the President to appoint a new Chief Justice. Chief Justice Rehnquist was a powerful intellect, and a serious student and writer of history. Indeed, these are the attributes that qualify his memory on an academic campus. He will be remembered as a significant judicial presence in American history.

William Rehnquist was a kind, respectful gentleman. He was a devoted grandfather who was known to leave work to care for a grandchild when his daughter needed help. Perhaps the best measure of the affection and admiration was the staff reaction to his illness and death. Every day the grape vine checked on this progress and at the end there was a sincere expression of sadness and sense of loss.

Sincerely,
Hugh L. Spitzer '58
Bethesda, Md.



In My Humble Opinion

Bigger fish to fry in life

By Daniel Roberts
Opinion Columnist

So election day has come and gone. Debate over "the issues" has subsided. But reflecting on today's political scene, there is no single campaign issue more befuddling to me than the matter of same sex marriage.

I realize that at a liberal-minded Northeastern institution, where activism is pushed and MOQA is a prominent club, my support of gay marriage is far from unique. So why do I think this opinion is worthy of my weekly column?

Here's the rub: I don't even think that gay marriage should be an issue. Don't get me wrong, this is not because I think it is unimportant. I say that gay marriage should not be an issue because it should be automatic.

"Grey's Anatomy" actor T.R. Knight recently announced he is gay. Shortly after this, Neil Patrick Harris, or as we know him, Dougie Houser, came out. Compare the appropriate, low-key reactions these two received to the tidal wave Ellen DeGeneres caused in 1997, and one can see that being gay in Hollywood has become a small detail. That makes sense, because why should a person's sexual orientation define them? Knight put it best when he declared, "I hope the fact that I'm gay isn't the most interesting part of me."

Knight's statement conveys a "So what?" attitude that reminds us a star's sexual orientation should not be a big deal. The ranks of openly gay actors are growing rapidly, so instead of filing angry lawsuits — ahem, Tom Cruise — actors who may be gay should feel encouraged by quiet rumors to come out. Carrot Top, I mean you.

The openness of gay celebrities adds to my shock that part of our country still revels in bigotry. One terrifying scene of the "Borat" movie happens at a rodeo in Salem, Virginia. Borat tries to thank his host by kissing him, but the man rears in horror and tells Borat he is acting gay. Borat hushes the accusation, "In my country we put them in jail," and the man agrees, "That's what we're trying to do here." Wow. Sacha Baron Cohen's satire shines at times like this, when he tricks people into revealing their prejudices.

At Middlebury, where there is fortunately great tolerance of "alternative" lifestyles, it is easy to forget that parts of the United States have not yet caught up.

Many who oppose gay rights find their basis in the Bible. Well, you'll have to excuse me if I don't see much legitimacy to an argument that draws its logic from "the good Book." In truth, there is no reasonable argument that can be made against gay marriage. Those who oppose it may hide behind theology, but their prejudice's clear for all to see.

At least with the topic of abortion, in which I fully support a woman's right to choose, I can understand and acknowledge the other side's argument. I really can see why someone's morals might lead to being pro-life. With those who oppose gay marriage, however, I see no such reasonable basis.

Let's say a group of people emerged who enjoy eating human flesh, and wanted to petition the government to allow cannibal marriage. In this case I would understand opposition.

I just feel frustrated. I try to follow politics, but I am continually turned off when I hear candidates and elected officials bring up gay marriage, because all I can think is that the issue is a waste of time. There should be no question of whether or not homosexuals deserve the opportunity to marry.

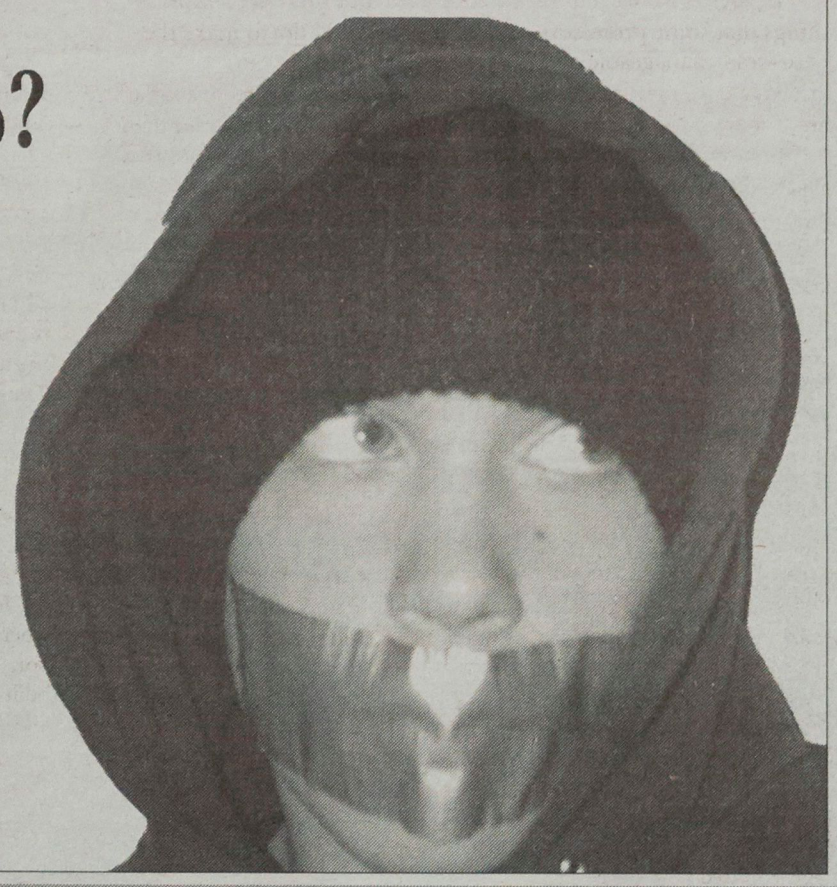
Remember how there was slavery in the U.S., and now we look back on that with shame? One day, people will recall a time when gay marriage was not yet legal, and cringe to think our country was ever so intolerant.

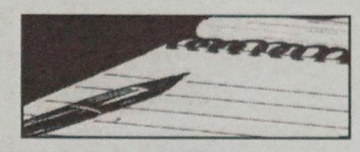
I know this is naive of me, but I wish Congress would smarten up and pass a law that legalizes gay marriage in all 50 states. Then, politicians could deal with subjects of national importance, like the economy or healthcare. Yet gay marriage remains a hot topic, simply because there are still people prejudiced enough to oppose it. Honestly, there are bigger fish to fry.

Do your friends tell you to shut up?

We'll probably publish it

Submit your opinions to campus@middlebury.edu





NOTES
FROM THE DESK

The Finance Committee cut the funding for most of the student organizations on campus this fall in order to fund them all through the Student Activities Fee (SAF). Funding was not cut, however, to one major program that drains money from the fund and is underused by the student body.

I'm speaking of the Napster program that was last reported to cost students about $20,000 per year straight out of the SAF. An exact figure is unknown because the agreement with Napster prevents the disclosure of how much the program costs. All students contribute to this fee, although it is clear from talking to students that only a minority use the service and that students who do use Napster do so inconsistently.

The money for Napster could have been used to fund the groups that had their budgets cut, many of whom felt that their budgets were already too small. These groups provide more entertainment options and a greater variety of opportunities for students than the Napster program does, and some of them actually do provide alternative musical options to students. One of these is WRMC, which cut the number of concerts it holds this year to one, and even then its concert budget is less than the cost of its spring concert last year.

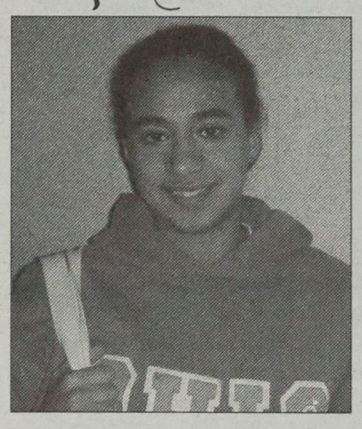
I understand the need to combat illegal downloading. I just do not think Napster is doing the job. In an informal poll conducted by *The Campus* last year after Napster was implemented, two-thirds of respondents said that they had still used the College network for illegal downloading.

While Napster provides a place to find a lot of music students are searching for, it does not provide movies or television shows for download while other programs such as iTunes have recently begun providing these. In that case, why would students who have access to these programs choose Napster instead?

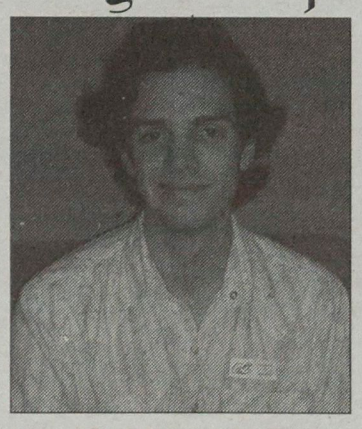
It's time for the SGA to review the Napster program and decide if it really is the best option for students. In my opinion, it's not worth the valuable resources it takes away from the community.

— Zamir Ahmed
News Editor

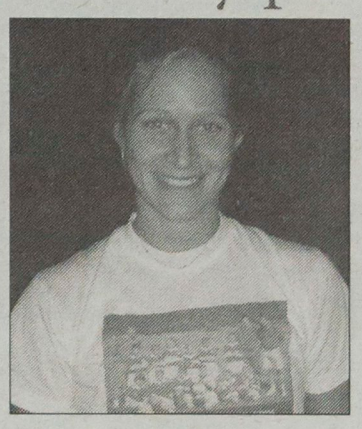
The Middlebury Campus weekly poll



"PEOPLE HAVE INTERCOMMONS RELATIONSHIPS AND THEY SHOULD BE ABLE TO HOUSE WITH THE PEOPLE THEY FEEL MOST COMFORTABLE WITH."
— EMMA SMITH '10

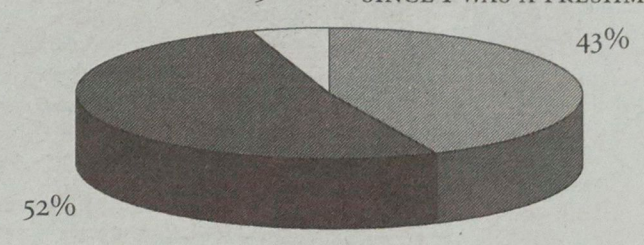


"IT WOULD DESTROY THE FRAMEWORK OF THE COMMONS SYSTEM."
— COLIN FOSS '10



"I DON'T THINK I WOULD WANT THAT, BUT IT'S EASY FOR ME TO SAY SINCE I'M IN ATWATER."
— MARIKA DYSENCHUK '10

SHOULD SENIORS BE ALLOWED TO DRAW INTO ANY COMMONS HOUSING REGARDLESS OF THEIR COMMONS AFFILIATION?


It doesn't really make a difference to me.
5%
Absolutely not, I've been planning this since I was a freshman.
43%
52%
Definitely, I'm stuck in a lowly commons. Help me out here!

Results taken from online poll: http://www.middleburycampus.com

Next Week's Poll Question: Which newsmaker would win in a fight? Nancy Pelosi, President Ron Liebowitz, or Borat

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Blind dates dine over Dolci dinner

True love blossomed at the second annual Proctor event

By Cecilia Goldschmidt
Staff Writer

Eighty-eight students met at Proctor Dining Hall last Friday in search of new faces, lasting relationships and great food in this year's first and the second ever. Blind Date Dolci. SGA committee members matched students based on questionnaires they filled out alongside their applications.

The consensus seems to be that finding true love was really not the main goal of the event. As organizers David Dolginow '09 and Frances Conrad '09 agreed, it was simply a "silly thing to do on a Friday evening." Dolginow and Conrad organized the event with the Social Affairs Committee of the Student Government Association (SGA) and Dolci, the College's only student-run restaurant.

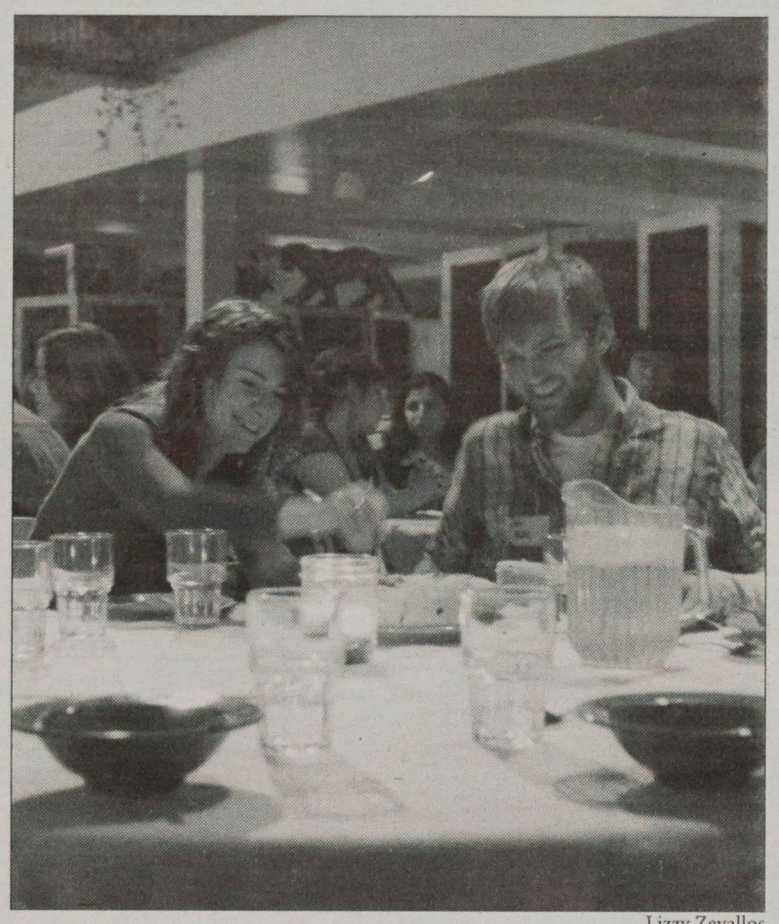
The inaugural Blind Date Dolci was a success last year, and, as a result, 150 students applied for spots this year. The applicants answered questions ranging from, "What decade do you belong in?" to "If you were trapped on a desert island with one movie, which would it be?"

Dolginow and Conrad read through the applications and paired up the couples however they saw fit. They maintain that they truly did not try to create any funny or unfitting couples, such as setting up unsuspecting first-year girls with senior guys who had circled "Date?! Straight to the bedroom" on their applications.

"Proctor will probably be really romantic," Jessie Kissinger '10 said about an hour before she headed over to meet her date. When asked what her expectations were for her night of dinner and conversation with a guy on campus whom she had potentially never met, Kissinger answered, "I don't know what to expect at all. I'm going to go in thinking it will be funny and awkward. Maybe the group tables will alleviate the awkwardness?"

Indeed, it seems that "funny" and "awkward" were the most commonly used words to describe the event. Emily Jones '10 applied for Blind Date Dolci expecting it to be "an awkward but fun way of meeting a new person," later adding, "Maybe it will turn out that we will be best friends for life." Jones' preparation for the event was a minimal three-step routine, "shower and shave and floss," she said.

Proctor was set up special for the night with 11 round tables covered with tablecloths and adorned with candles. This setup of group tables rather than individual tables for each couple allowed for groups of friends to sit together, therefore making the atmosphere much more casual and relaxed. Surprisingly enough for such a small college, out of the ten couples interviewed, none of them had ever met each other before Blind Date Dolci.



Lizzy Zevallos

Lingering over a romantic, candlelit dinner, Alina Levina '09 and Dan Kane '09 savored the ambiance while feasting on gourmet fare.

After meeting their dates, students sat down to a five-course gourmet meal, including chocolate covered strawberries, oysters, salad, pasta with vodka sauce, ribs, chocolate torte and peach pie.

Chris Sesno '09 said that when he first met up with his date, Abby Blum '08.5, "There were sparks in my eyes." Blum was also pleased, "We've been getting along so well it's unreal, you'd never know we hadn't ever met each other…Frances and Dave are very talented matchmakers," she said.

Similarly, Julia Fraser '07 and Ben Shapiro '09 affirmed that they had both exceeded each other's expectations. While Shapiro's expectations were simply that he hoped he would be "able to talk to the person for more than five minutes," he and Fraser were talking and laughing as if they were old friends, Shapiro proudly stating, "She's only slapped me like five or six times." When asked if he was going to ask Fraser for her number at the end of the night, Shapiro said that he hoped that she would give it to him, to which Fraser replied, "Maybe."

While it seems as if the general feeling on campus is that the dating scene at Middlebury College is, as Shane Spinell '08 put it, "pretty nonexistent," Blind Date Dolci was a fun opportunity for students to get dressed up, eat gourmet food and meet each other in an environment a little bit classier than a sweaty dance party. At the end of the night, it appeared that all of the participants had a thoroughly enjoyable time. Kissinger and Jones, who had been paired up with Eamon Duffy '09.5 and Austin Ogilvie '09.5, excitedly declared that at their table they had met "a cowboy, a pilot, a firefighter and a couple sky divers." For those who missed out on it this time, the SGA is planning to organize another Blind Date Dolci for this spring.

Seniors begin the 200 day countdown

The Grille boasted live music, beer and an auction to celebrate

By Leigh Arsenault
Staff Writer

Members of this year's senior class filled the Grille to capacity this past Friday night, their pockets chock full of cash.

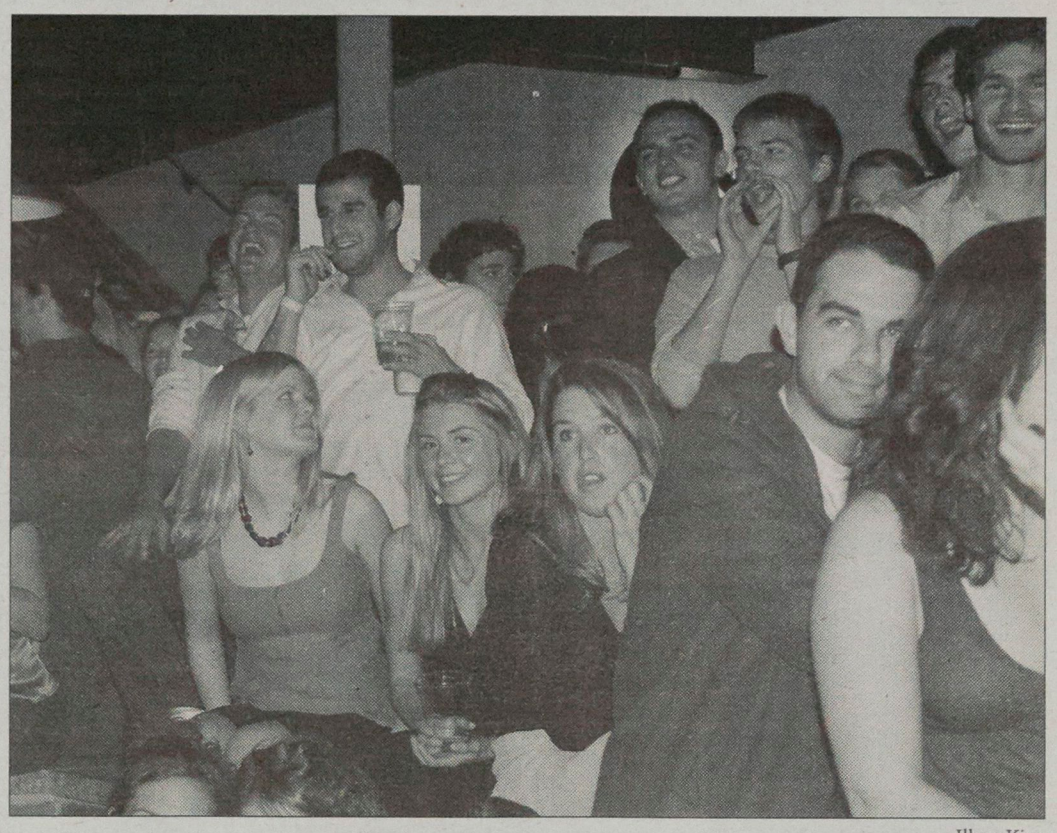
The 200 Days Party enticed seniors with 200 days until graduation to spend their Friday night enjoying free local beers and a raucous auction.

Students danced to the sounds of Genius Cave, whose lead singer Tim Shepherd '07.5 gave an inspired performance, tickling the ivories with familiar songs and ending with a tireless rendition of "Shout" that allowed students to show off dance moves honed over three years, thanks to the beloved McCullough late-night dance party.

With graduation looming, faces of the class of 2007 reflected excitement for the moment and feelings of how best to spend the last couple hundred days of college.

"The 200 Days Party was a huge success," exclaimed Keith Williams '07, chair of the senior committee and organizer of the event. He estimates that between 300-350 seniors were in attendance, and while the beer ran out quickly, classmates stayed until the early morning hours with hopes of making the winning bid to secure a date with the classmate of their dreams.

The senior date auction, hosted by gregarious seniors John Montesanti and Roula Zoghbi, earned $1150 for the senior class and provided many a humorous memory. Seniors on the auction block, hailing from a wide variety of social groups, bravely faced their admiring fans, revealing their interests (green bean casserole!) in the hopes of finding or reaffirming their perfect match — while raising a respectable sum of money for their class.



Ilhan Kim

Bidding on new sweathearts and friends, members of the class of 2007 crowd the Grille.

"Genius Cave gave the crowd a memorable and extremely energetic show" explained Williams, extending thanks from the senior class to the band. Performed with talented enthusiasm, the music kept students dancing for hours.

While the party was an undeniable hit, it signifies that the class of 2007 is forced to begin the inevitable countdown of their senior year.

Social justice symposium ignites awareness

Coming to a close this past Wednesday, the "Challenging Complacency: Do Christians Care about Social Justice" Symposium aimed to both inform students and inspire dialogue regarding the connections that exist between Christian faith and social justice. "We want to challenge people to think about spirituality and the church in a new way, and to learn what the life of Jesus and examples from church history can teach us about self-sacrifice, solidarity and hope," said Andrew Haile '07 of the Intervarsity Christian Fellowship, which organized the symposium. "We want to create dialogue about what Christian faith can offer in Middlebury's pursuit of a more just, peaceful and loving world." The week-long symposium was presented as a part of Religious Life Awareness Month at Middlebury and featured a series of lectures and discussions, a workshop and a concert. Several College organizations co-sponsored the symposium, including the Newman Club, Christian Orthodox Association and the Charles P. Scott Center for Spiritual and Religious Life.

Sider stresses small solutions to poverty

"God acts in history to overcome poverty," stressed Dr. Ron Sider of Eastern University in his address Friday, "He has a very special concern for the poor." Framing global problems of hunger and poverty through the perspective of teachings in the Bible, Sider addressed members of the Middlebury community in Mead Chapel as part of a week long symposium sponsored by the Middlebury Intervarsity Christian Fellowship. The symposium focused on the role of modern Christians facing the problems of global poverty and hunger, an area in which Sider has worked extensively since the publication of his 1977 book, "Rich Christians in an Age of Hunger."

Sider emphasized that Christians have a moral responsibility based on their faith to help the poor as outlined by the Bible's teachings. In a world in which millions of people live on less than $1 a day, he said, Christians cannot passively wait for a miracle from God. "God has shown us that it's not enough to have concern for those who live in poverty. You also have to help them."

Despite a dramatic reduction in world hunger since 1977, when Sider first published his book, the World Bank has estimated that many thousands of children still die daily of starvation and disease, and 1.2 billion people remain in abject poverty, facts that Sider highlighted in his address.

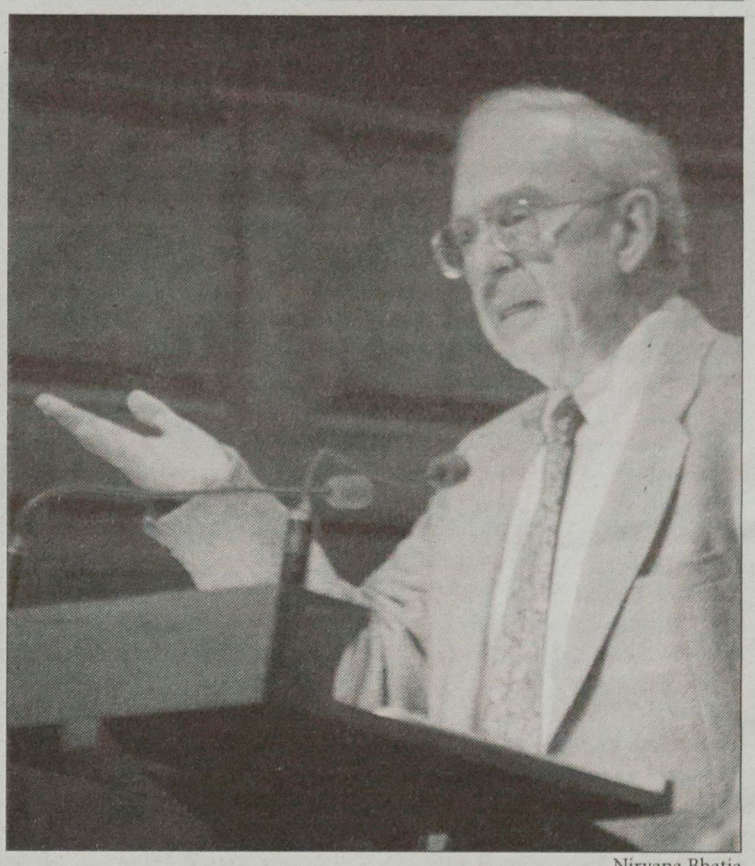
Sider also focused on ways that modern Christians can fight world poverty using free-market capitalism, particularly through economic forces such as micro-loans. Arguing for the expansion of programs that offer such loans, he said, "If you live in a market economy but have no capital, you're really in trouble. We have to make sure that everyone has access to capital." Sider gave an example of an African woman who used a micro-loan to purchase a stereo system and create a small business. "It didn't get rid of hunger," he explained, "but the music brought so much happiness to the village in the form of entertainment at weddings and other events that the woman, who charged a small fee to use it, was easily able to repay the loan."

Sider reminded the audience that financing such a loan, which is usually around $200, is an easy way for Christians to fulfill their responsibility to help the poor.

One of the foci of the Middlebury Christian Fellowship is to provide small group settings in which their members can discuss their relationships with God. "The main focus of a small group is to have a small circle of friends with whom you can grow spiritually and emotionally by examining God's word, sharing problems and testimonies and praying together," the group explained on its website.

Towards the end of the lecture, Sider pointed out that this small group atmosphere is exactly what is needed to incite Christian awareness of their role in the poverty and hunger crisis as proclaimed in the Bible. "Biblical faith tells you to live so differently than our society today tells you to live, but you can't make the change all on your own," he said. "You need small groups to help you."

— Tom Brant, Staff Writer



Nirvana Bhatia

Lecturing to his Mead Chapel audience, Dr. Ron Sider discusses the moral responsibility of Christians to help the poor. He urged them to focus monetary donations, however small, directly to those in need.

Alumni showcase successful strategies for supporting the world's poor

Last Saturday afternoon, a panel of seven Middlebury College alumni discussed their efforts to transform their Christian faith into a vehicle for change in the global community. Their conversation, entitled "Life after Middlebury: Pursuing Social Justice," offered an opportunity for current College students to hear about how this group of motivated Christians has worked tirelessly to help the poor, the suffering and the disenfranchised. In many ways, the panel member's reflections served as an inspiration for members of the younger generation, regardless of their religious beliefs, to challenge society's complacency and help enact positive reforms.

The work undertaken by the seven participants in the event varies widely, but it all demonstrated a commitment to helping those who are less fortunate. John Moser '06 discussed his experiences working in Juarez, Mexico, for Life Challenge International. There, he assisted mission groups carry out projects centered on increasing community development and providing free education and affordable health care.

Laura Sidell '06, discussed her work for Casa Esperanza, a home for abused and neglected children. She described herself as a full-time mother whose goal is "to 24/7 provide all [that] my children need to allow them to grow," which includes taking them to parks, supermarkets and teaching them how to cook.

Another 2006 graduate, Laura Barrett, works with Urban Service Core, a Protestant organization in the Denver area which deals with crisis relief. On this organization, Barrett said, "We just help with really basic things," such as giving poor people money to repair cars they desperately need.

Ilhan Kim

Hanging on to every word, "Pursuing Social Justice" panel members and audience members discuss the ways Christian faith influences social change.

Although some of the panel members have just graduated from the College and have only recently begun their ventures into social justice, others are better versed in faith-based activism. Devon Parish '05 is part of a program called Mission Year, which attempts to build communities of Christians who wish to live together on a long-term basis and help with various community projects. Right now, Parish is volunteering in Camden, NJ, where she works with after-school programs. She describes her main work, however, as "being a good neighbor and being an example through my life."

Steve Loo '03 is also involved with kids; he works as a seventh grade teacher in inner-city Boston, where he has become greatly immersed in the process of improving the lives of his students through after-school and summer programs. "I didn't know what it was like to be someone who struggled academicly," Loo said, adding, "They struggle because they don't have their basic needs met."

Crystal Reitsma '95, also a teacher, works in Maine and is trying also to transform the lives of her students. Her past experiences include volunteering with Adventures and Missions in Matamoras, Mexico. She believes "God's heart is with the orphans and the widows," a motto that acts as the inspiration for her labor. The final member of the panel, Angela Smith-Dieng '00 has experienced what she describes as a "rambling journey in social justice work." From traveling to Mauritania with the Peace Corps to working in soup kitchens in Elizabeth, New Jersey, she seems to have seen and done it all.

Each of the Middlebury graduates emphasized that their work here at the College aided them immensely in pursuing their burgeoning interest in the field of social justice. The intellectual atmosphere of the community helped these seven people challenge themselves on issues regarding their faith and the way it is reflected in their lifestyles and actions. Additionally, Middlebury provided many of the initial opportunities for social justice work, such as the trips to Mexican missionaries, among other similar programs.

Parish says she was influenced by the College's liberal arts philosophy, which encourages students to pursue multiple paths in both their studies and their lives. More importantly, for members of the panel, being a member of the Middlebury community was an experience in loving and working together; Sidell cited this as the most important lesson that she had learned while attending the College.

After a lengthy question-and-answer session, the panel concluded to heavy applause. Its seven members had demonstrated the importance of helping other people, regardless of religious background. However, the group of Christians also emphasized how crucial their faith has been in propelling them to action. Epitomizing the goals of the symposium, Smith-Dieng remarked, "I bring my faith, the spirit, into the world."

— Nathan Zucker, Staff Writer

There's a fly in my creme brulée

By Katie Hylas
Columnist

Why is everyone on this campus obsessed with working out? Isn't it weird that it's completely normal here for people to spend a huge chunk of their Fridays in the gym? Or to count the chickpeas and lettuce organized aesthetically on their plate? Every day, the gym is completely packed.

Constantly working out seems to be a crucial aspect of the Middlebury culture. Football players and English majors alike all pile into that pleasurable bubble of a complex and sweat themselves into oblivion. Working out and eating healthily is like a religion here. A common comment in the dining halls is, "I feel so guilty that I didn't go to the gym today." Hello! It's not a shrine, it's a fitness center!

Often the first thing a visitor to the school notices is how unbelievably fit everyone is. "No one is overweight here," one visitor whispered to me in the dining hall. Everyone is ridiculously skinny and they work their butts off (literally) to get that way.

The campus in and of itself is a giant gym. So many people run or bike constantly that I get confused, and often almost hit. I wonder, *Should I pick up the pace? Is my high school track coach lurking around the corner screaming and holding a stopwatch?*

If one has a weak stomach and finds overly apparent spandex bottoms to be nauseating, it must be like walking through a haunted house to get from BiHall to the CFA. Our campus is haunted by zombies staring blankly as they walk on with their iPod minis strapped tightly to their arms and Kelly Clarkson's *Since You've Been Gone* echoing through their earphones.

One has to wonder about the implications of such a culture. Sure, it's good to be fit and active, but is it possible that we take it too far? Many students here feel pressure to be as involved in exercising and eating cautiously as their peers are.

Any inconsistency in the body is subject to scrutiny. A walk into Ross can feel like standing naked in front of the entire cafeteria. *Is everyone looking at my stomach? Can they tell I skipped the gym today?* The workout culture raises self-imposed expectations and can cripple self-esteem.

Generally, America values thinness in women and strength in men. I suppose that's why the women in the gym concentrate on the elliptical machines and the men dominate the weight portion of the gym.

The media floods us to lose ten pounds in ten days through glorified images of barely clad skinny-minis. It's no wonder that Middlebury has adopted such a culture. Maybe we should be wary of Middlebury's work-out-aholic way of life.

OCCUPATION: LOVER

Chris Heinrich

"I became an activist as I became a believer in the Church," said Shane Clairborne in his address this past Thursday, "Living the Revolution of Love: Christianity as a Way of Life." While he drew upon his experiences growing up in the Bible Belt, Clairborne asserted that his spirituality "came to life in the streets and alleys of Philly." When a group of homeless families was denied shelter in an abandoned Philadelphia cathedral, Clairborne and his friends sprung to action. "How can we worship a homeless man on Sunday and ignore one on Monday?" one sign read, according to Clairborne. This instance of injustice quickly gave way to a huge student mobilization, which has continued to grow. After working alongside Mother Teresa, Clairborne set about "protestifying" a new reality in his own backyard: North Philadelphia. He became a founding partner of the Simple Way, a radical faith community. The Simple Way, means "live the gospel, live the Kingdom of God, live it out at our dinner tables and our living rooms." Through feeding the hungry, playing with children, running a community store and restoring abandoned homes, The Simple Way lives the revolution, daily echoing Mother Teresa's sentiments, "We can do no great things, only small things with great love."

Exploring the Purple Jesus mystery

By Kelly Janis
Staff Writer

If you happened to observe figures in purple, Jesus-esque robes wandering about campus in the wee hours of Saturday morning, raving about an enigmatic, purple punch, fear not: you enjoyed a chance encounter with a denizen of the Mill's infamous Purple Jesus Party.

While it may be easy to find the mayhem, applying any logic to one of the most well-known parties at Middlebury is a more demanding task. But what exactly is Purple Jesus?

The party's origins are enshrouded by a carefully cultivated mystique. To begin delving into the mystery, *The Campus* went straight to the party's host — the Mill. Most students gathered in the Mill's basement shortly before the party's start, nonchalantly shrugging off proddings into its history.

"Well, purple's our house color," Mill member Danielle Rose '07 clarified.

"[The party is] the earliest running house tradition," alumnus Jay McDonald explained. "It's been around since the early nineties, at the foundation of the Mill. It's our annual holiday. It's so the Mill can show its true character to Middlebury College. It's like an open house." But the question remains, what about the party's name?

"Well, the name is based on the birth of the Lord," Rose corrected. "But, also, on the drink, and the house."

"The [Mill's] mission statement is that we're open to all people of all walks of life," McDonald clarified. "Anyone who wants to be a part of the Mill can be a part of the Mill. We respect diversity and open sexuality."

"Just like Jesus did," added Rose. But does the Purple Jesus carry religious connotations?

Rose shrugged. "Well, I think you'll just have to figure that out."

As the party went on, it quickly became evident that the Mill members were deliberately tight-lipped when speaking of the event's underpinnings. "We all feel a little uncomfortable with having a *Campus* article discuss a house tradition that we as Mill members maintain every year," Rose admitted. "The history of the event, although clearly relevant to an article, is personal to us as members and we would like to keep it that way in order to uphold the sanctity of the event."

So *The Campus* was in tough territory. When those in charge will not give definitive answers, a good reporter must head to the streets! In the geography of a Mill party, the place for conversation is the front stoop. It seemed, sadly, that the many partygoers appeared arguably less concerned with matters of sanctity. The focus of their shouts in *The Campus*'s direction pivoted largely on the infamous alcoholic beverage served to students of age in attendance at the event. Speculation as to its contents abound.

A Purple Jesus attendee, Britt Neuhaus '07 stated, "I heard it's Kool-Aid. And [the punch has] gone down in quality."

"I heard it's the blood of Christ," added Zach Maxwell '07, providing his own colorful interpretation of the elusive drink.

A Mill member, James Gorski '07.5, when cornered and forced to respond to *The Campus's* inquisition insisted that the punch is "a mixture of love and Satan."

The lack of answers from the shouting masses and Mill members led to another frustration. By the time a band headed up by house member Luke Woods '07 finished its set, the party's distinctive character seemed to have eroded, replaced, instead, by the commotion, disarray and uniformity which inevitably results from hundreds of college students packed into a rather less-than-spacious basement. Pushing, shoving, general disarray and sweaty confusion ensued.

"Wait, is this the Purple Jesus party?!" an attendee shouted, awestruck and a bit confused, above the fray.

In the aftermath, Rose, while pleased with the fact that "it seems like everybody had a good time," was disappointed by the lack of regard exhibited for her home and its members' personal belongings.

"We love throwing parties and having friends over, but we do not like feeling abused and disrespected by the people who attend," she said. "Several students were caught stealing from our kitchen during the party. Personal items of house members were taken, including a digital camera."

"It is a Canon and has the last six months of my life on it," added Brett Foreman '07, the camera's owner. "I am wearing a purple jumpsuit and a mustache in the last frame … if someone could return it to the Mill, no questions [would be] asked."

After a serious and in-depth investigation, *The Campus*, while closer to an understanding of Purple Jesus's origins, ultimately remains in the dark. The Purple Jesus extravaganza will live on, but will continue to be shrouded in an air of elusiveness, its meanings unknown to everyone but its original creators.

WINNERS & LOSERS

What's hot and what's not on campus and in pop culture? *The Campus* gives its weekly report.

J-Term draws near	Bannerweb is here
Everyone is looking forward to the post-holiday party.	We are at your mercy, Czar Bannerweb.
Britney Spears	K-Fed
Finally learned that back-up dancers belong in the background.	Popo Zao!
Pearson's Saturday Night	Pearson's Sunday Morning
Oh my god.	Oh my god.

When Frats Ruled the School:

Look around Middlebury's campus on a Friday night, and you will find a graveyard of old party locales. Fletcher House is quiet, only livened up from the little noise that spills over from the Mill. The mansion-like social houses of Ridgeline lie asleep like slumbering giants. Even on Rte. 30, Mumford and Meeker houses, filled with white paper, thumbtacks, ink cartridges and calendars, sleep in the chilly Vermont night.

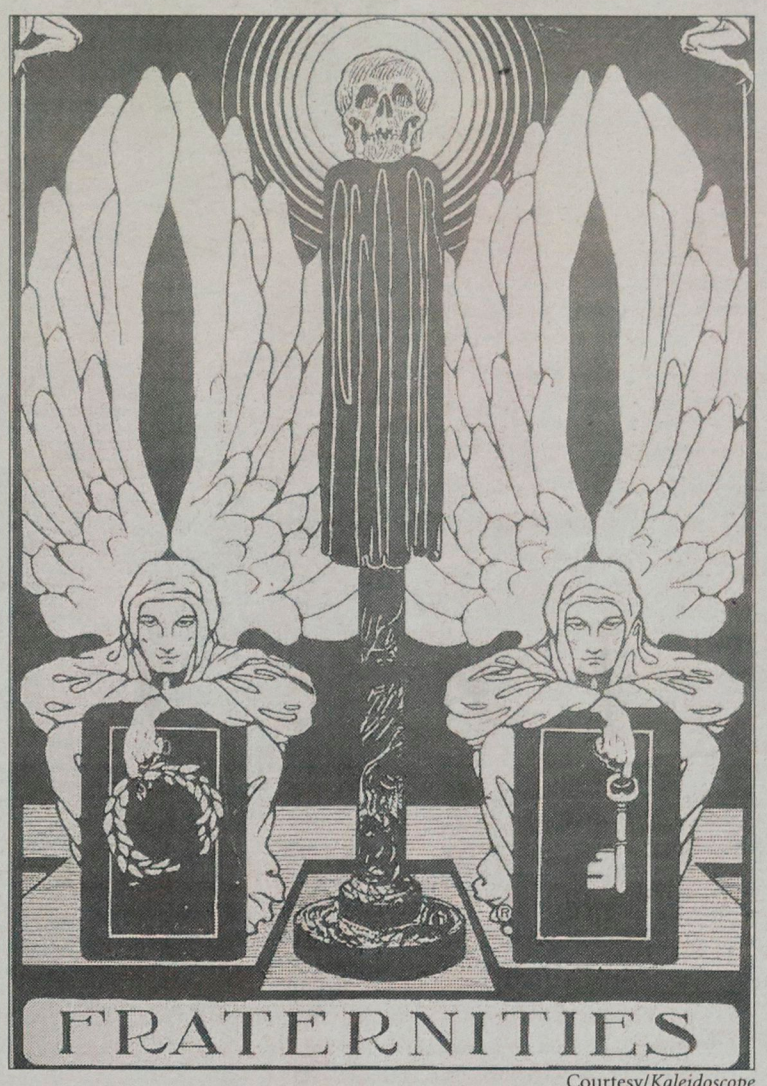
Middlebury was not always this way. There was once a time when the façades of Mumford and Meeker were adorned with Greek letters and their rooms were unfit for living. This was a time when fraternities ruled Middlebury. *The Campus* recently sat down with Dean of Advising Karl Lindholm '67 to try and understand what life was like in this now distant era.

"In 1967, we had 11 fraternities," he said, "and by responsible estimates I would say 90-95% of my graduating class was in a fraternity." Lindholm describes the frat scene at Middlebury during the 1960s as one of inclusion. "My roommate was not in the same frat, and we used to eat at each others' [fraternities]," he said.

The pervasiveness of frat culture in the 1940s through the 1960s was quite different from the social scene today. Lindholm describes the frats as a simple way of life. "I went home after my sophomore year and told my father I had joined a fraternity. He asked me 'Why?' and I could not answer that question — it was just the culture," said Lindholm.

About the sixties, he said,"All the freshmen lived in dorms and ate in Proctor," while all the members of the fraternities ate in their respective cafeterias.

"There were very few constraints on underage drinking," he added. He describes the mood on the weekends where the houses on Rte. 30 would "roll back the furniture and have a party." Students would then hop from house to house looking for the best party.



Courtesy/*Kaleidoscope*

Members of the 1911 *Kaleidoscope* included this hand drawn graphic in the beginning of their section covering fraternity life at Middlebury.

Some parties will forever live on in the College's memory. The annual demolition derby thrown by Sig Ep, (that was housed in present-day Meeker house) was one of these events. The demolition derby was not held in a vacant field but rather in a more central location — the Sig Ep property itself. "They would buy old cars, and then smash them up in their front yard," Lindholm recalls.

Another wild adventure turned out to be the demise of SLUG, once housed at Fletcher House. In the early 1980s, the house members rented a bus and threw a party at Middlebury College's Breadloaf campus. In the aftermath, "the place was completely covered in cocaine powder," said Lindholm.

The fraternity culture underwent many changes. "If you look at the yearbook in 1967, we're a bunch of straight-edge guys, and then you look at 1969 and everyone's got the long hair," said Lindholm. "It all had to do with Vietnam." An unpopular war, the women's movement and a lowered drinking age all caused students to migrate elsewhere for parties.

By the time the 1980s rolled around, student participation in frat life had fallen to a mere 15 percent. The fraternity climate turned nasty. In one of the more colorful pranks in the school's history, two social houses on Rte. 30, displeased with the administration, created snow sculptures late one Saturday night. The sculptures were large and gave all church-going Vermonters a veritable sex-ed lesson. "I had to hire earthmovers to come in and knock those down," Lindholm said, "They were intricately constructed."

In the early 1980s the Board of Trustees toured the remaining six fraternities on campus. An appraisal of damage found that four of the six houses required more money to repair them then they were worth.

Fraternities did not hang on long after that and the College adopted the current co-ed social house structure which some would argue are now headed for the same fate as that of fraternities.

—Joseph Bergan, Features Editor

Joseph Bergan can be reached at jbergan@middlebury.edu

Courtesy/*Kaleidoscope*

A member of the fraternity KDR demonstrates the new fraternity culture of the 1980s.

Courtesy/*Kaleidoscope*

DKE house members pose proudly in the fraternity era of jackets and ties.

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e-mail campus@middlebury.edu

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WRMC puts new spin on its image

91.1 FM goes on the record as an indie but non-exclusive organization

By Melissa Marshall
Assisstant Arts Editor

"WRMC 91.1 is committed to providing an alternative to mainstream music programming in the Champlain Valley," reads the mission statement of Middlebury College's student-run radio station. "We uphold this commitment largely through our passionate support of independent music that we feel to be exciting, experimental, and new." This markedly democratic declaration promoting the individual's right to a mélange of music seems to fall right in line with the emphasis on free thinking and broad horizons that are typical of the college experience. But the operation that broadcasts from Proctor Redfield is often viewed as less of a beacon of egalitarian ideals and more of a tyranny — one that domineers the airwaves armed with the repetitive riffs and wavering vocals associated with "indie rock." But just because an artist or band is labeled as independent, that is to say not signed with a major label company, does not necessarily mean that it is elitist.

"We are aware of our reputation on campus," said Sage Bierster '07.5, "and the attitude this year is to get people to participate. WRMC is a wonderful resource on campus." The best way to increase student involvement is by piquing student interest, and there is no better method to do so than speaking the language they understand, or as the case may be, by playing the music they identify with. Last year's General Manager Conor Stinson '07 attempted to make WRMC more of an eclectic station, placing heavy emphasis on the diversity of shows. Besides having blocks dedicated to the world, folk, blues, jazz, metal, electronica and hip-hop genres, 91.1 FM also features an increasing popular Radio Theatre as well as the syndicated "Democracy Now," whose more liberal attitude towards politics is balanced by two more conservative talk shows featured in the station's fal semester line-up.

This freedom of programming — a direct result of being an independent and student-run organization — is an obvious draw for students, as was demonstrated by the over 140 DJ applications received for the fall semester. But what is even more surprising than the number of student applications is the fact that every hopeful was offered a show — not a statistic that one would necessarily expect from an alleged persnickety organization. And as Professor of Film and Media Studies Jason Mittell pointed out, "College radio is its own genre of radio and is part of what makes the college community vibrant. Even if it doesn't serve certain listeners, it seems that with the surge of online radio and MP3s, college radio is less about providing alternate music and more of an outlet and an opportunity for students to be heard, to express themselves and to gain valuable experience in the communications field."

Angela Evancie

JJ Hurvich '08.5, Jordan Nassar '07.5, Tomie Peaslee '07 and Kelsey Smith '07.5, all WRMC executive board members, intently discuss station politics during one of their weekly meetings.

WRMC offers an alternative to alternative rock

"I Made You a Mixed Tape"
Monday 7 a.m. to 8 a.m.
Hosted by: Miranda Tsang, Claire Kelly and Kate DiMercucio
Description: "I Made You a Mixed Tape" features a different theme every week to get you moving in the morning.

"Softcore Suburban Thuggery"
Wednesday 10:30 p.m. to 12 a.m.
Hosted by: John Warnow and Hunter Stuart
Description: "Softcore Suburban Thuggery" is softer than a thrice-driven bed of down, playing everything from techno-toting gangster to absurdly nerdy introspective beats.

"Middlebury Radio Theatre"
Saturday 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.
Hosted by: Stefan Claypool, Greg Fulchino, Derek Long and Chris O'Connel
Description: Every Saturday evening, "Middlebury Radio Theatre" entertains the College community with renditions of favorite classics as well as performances of original material.

One cannot deny, however, that there is a certain thick-rimmed glasses, tight-pant stigma associated with WRMC, and although the occasional theme party in Lower Forest or sporadic demonstration outside of Proctor helps raise awareness, they are not enough to convert a campus. The station has been relatively quiet this semester as well — a WRMC-sponsored concert has yet to grace the famed Coltrane Lounge. When asked if this was perhaps a residual effect from the recent budget cuts, General Manager Tomie Peaslee '07 graciously replied, "I think we've been flexible across the board, and this just forces us to be more creative."

Peaslee and the rest of the executive board made a bold decision, however, by moving the station's annual festival, Sepomona, to Dec. 1st instead of its usual time during the spring semester.

"We are excited about Sepomona being moved to the fall. We think it is a better time for our annual concert series, both for increasing our listenership and attendance. Putting on a great show is always a challenge, and with the budget cuts this year it was even trickier, yet we managed to arrange an amazing line up. We expect this year's Sepomona to be one of the best ever: Andrew Bird is a tremendous and popular act and we expect the student turnout to be overwhelming."

WRMC's largest event of the year will also feature the Massachusetts-based Mobius Band as well as the offbeat, cabaret-lounge stylings of New York's Baby Dayliner.

91.1 FM certainly realizes that the majority of students may never have heard of an obscure indie band from outside Boston or an alternative rapper; however, WRMC's mission statement is not concerned with placating the masses but with broadening musical horizons.

"We don't have the same M.O. as, say, MCAB," said Bierster. "Their approach is about pleasing as many people as possible, while we can afford to take more risks. But we do have very similar goals of wanting to bring entertainment to campus." And just because they are not focused on headlining the most recognizable names does not mean that the executive board isn't interested in scheduling crowd-pleasing acts.

"The most important thing we consider before bringing an act to campus isn't the name, but the quality of the show. Even if you've never heard of a band before, you can still have a great time at the concert if it's a quality act. That's why Ratatat was so successful a few years ago and why people are still talking about it. It was entertaining, it was a performance," said Music Director Jordan Nassar '07.5.

WRMC is decidedly attempting to reach beyond Proctor and the hipster niche it seems to embody, but a broadcast is only effective if the student population is open and willing to turn its dials to 91.1 FM.

Courtesy

WRMC's impressive music library boasts selections from a wide array of genres from hip-hop to Brazilian fertility chants. The library is at the disposable of all DJs and contributes to the varied line-up.

Spotlight on...*Sweatervest*

Pat Abatiell '07 and Bri Cavallaro '08.5 are co-editors-in-chief of one of Middlebury's newest and most prominent literary magazines, *Sweatervest*. Abatiell is an English and Creative Writing major from Rutland, Vt., and Cavallaro is an English and Creative Writing major from Chicago, Ill. Established two years ago by Jocey Florence '06 and Ali Shapiro '06, *Sweatervest* features a diverse range of original poetry and prose written by Middlebury students. *The Campus* talks to this year's editors about the campus literary scene and *Sweatervest*'s impact.

***The Middlebury Campus*: How do you hope *Sweatervest* affects the literary scene on campus?**

Pat Abatiell: I think there is a lot of literary production on campus. There are a lot of great writers and a great creative writing department, but for some reason that hasn't translated into a vibrant literary community. People tend to write either for themselves or for their classes and then not extend their efforts outside of that. I really think that literary magazines, and hopefully *Sweatervest* in particular, can combat a little bit of that reticence and out some of that really good writing and, I think in showing it off, get people to start talking about writing. We want to get a discourse going that's a little bit more vibrant than what we have now.

Chris Heinrich

Bri Cavallaro: I feel that, at the moment, creative writing classes and creative writing projects seem to be in the territory of the English department, which is usually the breeding/stomping ground for the kind of people who want to be doing creative writing. But a lot of people with very interesting, diverse things to say are in different departments and I feel like by creating literary magazines that are campus-wide, we're creating opportunities for people to not only showcase their work, but create something of a forum. I want to hear what different people have to say, I want to hear different viewpoints. Not even from just a cultural perspective. There are obviously people on this campus who are interested in far different things than I am. There is such an intellectual diversity and it would be amazing to showcase some of that in a magazine.

***TC*: What are you looking for when you sift through the many submissions you receive?**

PA: That's kind of difficult and something we end up discussing inevitably anyway, especially when it comes down to discussing two pieces we really like and how we objectively decide which is better. Since the beginning, I think we've done a really good job trying to avoid establishing a *Sweatervest* aesthetic, especially because I think people on campus would be opposed to that — if there was a particular type of writing that we tended to privilege. And I think we've been fortunate that the submissions we've gotten have been really wildly divergent. Choosing a piece is more just sort of a gut response — what we think is particularly creative and what we think has a peculiar or striking energy that makes it an interesting read. I think it's hard to narrow it down to a formula because we don't quite have one. And even if we can list specific ways, those are less important than the fact that we have a writer who has done something really interesting that we want to celebrate.

BC: Pat and I do this very differently. Obviously, we all read for gut reaction first. There is a great quote from T.S. Eliot in which he says that a poem can communicate before it's understood. This is completely true. You can read a poem and not understand it and it can still do something to you. The same with a fiction piece — if it twists your gut a little bit, if it sticks in the back of your mind [then it is valuable]. I'm also a stickler for form and clarity. I really want readers to be able to look at a piece and comprehend its meaning. I don't really like obtuse work or work that strives to be misunderstood, I feel like art is all about communication. That doesn't mean you have to stick to just narrative poetry or narrative stories. I love experimental poetry and I love when people try to do different things, but what I want is to take away a clear sense, not even of the author's intention, but of whatever piece of my history is interacting with their history. Again, it's like a dialogue. I love how my experiences conjoin with their experiences to create something entirely different.

***TC*: Why do you feel qualified to choose submissions to be published?**

PA: I think its something that we [the editorial board] are very conscious of. In the submission process, we are not trying to establish any sort of artistic or literary elite on campus. It's a question that I ask myself and if I had to justify it, I would say I have had a fair amount of experience with writing — I think all the board members do, and being at the meetings, everyone is very insightful. We are very careful about asking people for edits — we don't really send editorial suggestions. If we want edits, we keep it general precisely for the reason that we understand that even though we are [choosing the works], we are not necessarily authorities — we are students ourselves. It is more that we have a vibrant interest in [literature and *Sweatervest*'s goals]. I think we, as a group, answer this question by being very attentive to how people respond to the magazine and the possible concerns that publishing student writing brings up.

BC: I feel the qualification to be the editor of a literary magazine is more about passion for writing. I have done a lot of creative writing myself, but you don't need to be a writer to appreciate writing. Some of the best appreciators of literature have never even thought about writing a poem themselves. If you're a writer, you do get access to some interesting classes and workshops — you get to see the nuts and bolts of how things work — but it's just a perk. It's really wonderful to be in the position of reading a piece for its import on you rather than trying to take it apart and see how it works. I would like to see it working rather than deconstructing it and staring and its gears.

— Alexxa Gotthardt

"Voices of Indigenous People" speaks loud and clear

Nikhil Ramburn

Members of Algonquin tribes, including Kelly Dennis '07 (left), don their native dress and dance to the beat of stirring tribal music in Voices of Indigenous People's (VIP) celebration of Native American Heritage month. Audience members were encouraged to participate in traditional Native American dances, storytelling and poetry.

FOR THE RECORD

by Melissa Marshall

For many worn-out MiddKids, this Tuesday will be the first time this year that they pack their bags, throw on their Northface jackets and head back to wherever they call home. And the first instinct of the mp3 generation, after they buckle their seatbelts in their mom's Subaru or slide into the window seat of their JetBlue flight, is to slip on those white ear-buds and dream of the stuffing and cranberry sauce. The journey back home, however, has many symbolic and emotional implications. It is a rediscovery of your roots, requiring an adjustment of how you view yourself as well as the place in which you grew up. Countless films and a plethora of books have been based on this notion of homecoming after a period of maturation, and it is only appropriate that you have a soundtrack worthy of such occasion. Don't fret, *For the Record* has taken the time to compile the artists and songs reminiscent of your late night high school drives and your roommate's complaint rock, creating a playlist both meditative and anticipatory, nostalgic and hopeful, fitting for a background of blurred trees or opaque skylines.

Track 1: "Here I Dreamt I Was an Architect" by The Decemberists. Filled with the lofty language and esoteric metaphors typical of the five-piece outfit from Missoula, Mont., this song's unrefined vocals and meandering melody makes it an ideal partner to pensiveness.

Track 2: "Fire Island, AK" by The Long Winters. Although front-man John Roderick already had two full-length albums under his belt when he released *Putting the Days to Bed*, it seems that he just finally grew into himself as a musician, and tracks such as "Fire Island, AK" are proof. With its driving bass line intense enough to match the teenage heartbeat and literate lyrics, "Fire Island, AK" is hopefully an indication of the future of the indie music scene.

Track 3: "Time" by Pink Floyd. For those of us who have parents with discerning musical taste, "Time," the brilliant Brits' magnus opus, will not only bring back memories of long family car rides, but its luminous lyrics will inspire you to suck the marrow out of life.

Track 4: "Heaven" by the Fire Theft. The most impressive release from the guys who once comprised the influential punk band Sunny Day Real Estate, "Heaven" features deliberate, emotionally-invested lyrics and a stunning vocal performance from Jeremy Enigk.

Track 5: "Come on Home" by Franz Ferdinad. Perhaps the most under-rated track from the Glasgow quartet's 2004 runaway release is "Come on Home." Besides having a fitting title, it also demonstrates the quick beats and swift tonal shifts characteristic of the hipster icons at their best.

Track 6: "Black Beauty Theme" by Danny Elfman. Composed by the man responsible for the score to Tim Burton's cult-classic "The Nightmare Before Christmas," this rare release features evocative string arrangements which will make you yearn for the summer evenings of your childhood.

Track 7: "Title Track" by Death Cab for Cutie. Although this Seattle-based band has achieved a type of god-like status among indie music critics with their 2003 release *Transatlanticism* and the subsequent *Plans*, lead-singer Ben Gibbard was at his finest during *The Photo Album* and *We Have the Facts and We're Voting Yes* era. "Title track," with its intimate lyrics and unpolished rhythms indicative of the band's early days, is one of the crowning achievements of Death Cab's catalogue.

Track 8: "My Iron Lung" by Radiohead. Featured on *The Bends*, the epic follow-up to *Pablo Honey*, "My Iron Lung" is a quintessential example of the glory of nineties alternative rock, speaking to those "too young to fall asleep/ too cynical to speak."

Track 9: "Round Here" by The Counting Crows. Perhaps one of the most poignant ballads ever written thanks to the powerfully angst-ridden vocals of Adam Duritz, "Round Here" will make you feel infinite.

Track 10: "Konstantine" by Something Corporate. This Orange County quintet's nine minute masterpiece will immediately transport you back to the time when you could be vulnerable and invincible in the same breath. And listening to its piano-driven melody coupled with Andrew McMahon's reflective voice reminds us that, thankfully, we are not as grown-up as we would like to fancy ourselves.

REGALLY BLONDE

Episode IV: A Dinner Party Guide

by Astri von Arbin Ahlander

In Sweden, even the most casual dinner parties with your closest friends entail seating arrangements. But in America, where the walking buffet and cocktail prevail, eyebrows are raised at me as soon as I suggest any form of organized seating. I'll point someone to their designated seat and they begin to mutter about their inalienable rights. How important is freedom of choice, really? You chose to come to the party, isn't that enough?

Arranged seating doesn't mean the affair is stuffy, it just means that the hosts have taken the opportunity to be in command of the "mix" of things. I recall many seating arrangements over which I have presided in my day. Whether it is the Tuesday evening get-together or the big birthday bash, pre-arranged seating allows for great social creativity, and control. That way, you can seat your cheery friend's oafish boyfriend next to someone else's homely sister, and wham! They can be oafish and homely together — at their designated end of the table. Not only did you save some other poor guy or girl the disdain of entertaining them for the night, you are also likely to have made an unexpectedly good pairing. Two bores often equal one mildly amusing time, as opposed to the mistake of one bore plus one talker which almost always equals one hell of a mistake. Similarly, you can play the empowered matchmaker by matching that same cheery friend with your stand-up comic buddy. By the end of the night, you may have mediated a much-needed break-up. To put it simply, seating arrangements allow you to pair people whom you believe would have a good time to ensure that the good time in fact happens.

Now that we're all sitting and conversing happily, let's move on to drinking. One great way to up the ante on a dragging dinner, or to blow the top off a rager, is the drinking song. A staple of many cultural heritages, the drinking song has not quite made it into the American party handbook. Why not? Is there any better way to create instant jolliness than through some well-chosen tones? As a Swede, I have a whole variety show's worth of drinking songs ingrained in me from early childhood. These songs are not only about drinking but also about being witty with words and sassy to your co-partiers.

At Middlebury, we have lots of competent socialites who I hereby challenge to organize a dinner party with arranged seating and the spice of a drinking song or two. Take a chance: invite an eclectic group of friends that don't usually mix and watch the magic happen after your guests settle into your carefully planned social constellations. Middlebury may be a small bubble where we all claim to know everyone else, but the truth is that cliques still prevail and a dinner party is a great way to make some new introductions.

I end by offering up a drinking song to kick off your festivities:
(To the tune of "Memory" from *Cats*):
Memory, I have lost all my memory/
Where has it gone to, tell me!/
I don't even know/
Memory, I have blackouts in memory/
Great big holes in my memory/
From too strong alcohol- SKÅL!
Drink up and enjoy your arranged dinner partner!

Astri

College Orchestra changes its tune

By Andrew Throdahl
Staff Writer

The Middlebury College Orchestra has experienced a renaissance, and last Friday night's performance made clear the renewed energy and enthusiasm of the student ensemble. Having practically doubled in size since last year, the orchestra displayed a fresh, forceful sound that packed the seats of the Center for the Arts (CFA) Concert Hall. Some concert-goers were even denied entrance.

The first part of the program celebrated Mozart's 250th birthday and featured passages from some of his later compositions. The audience was quickly pulled into the performance by the familiar overture to *The Magic Flute*. *The Magic Flute* was written simultaneously with the bleak, unfinished Requiem, Mozart's last composition. Both works, veiled in mystery, are still a subject of debate among musicologists. The Metropolitan Opera recently presented a new production of *The Magic Flute* by Julie Taymor, artistic director of the *The Lion King*, solidifying the opera's place as the jewel in the crown of Mozart's canon. The orchestra's choice of this overture marked a refreshing change from the overplayed Queen of the Night's Aria and Papageno-Papagena duet.

After the overture, Soprano Beth Thompson Kaiser sang two lesser-known arias from *The Marriage of Figaro* and *La Clemenza di Tito*. The orchestra supported her voice without overpowering it, a real worry given the ensemble's unprecedented size. In addition, Caeli Nistler-Schnabel '08 supplied a vibrant clarinet solo that seemed to anticipate the K. 622 Clarinet Concerto — *La Clemenza di Tito* is K. 621. Nistler-Schanbel's s solo was impressive, and a family seated nearby me gasped at her skillful display of the clarinet's flexibility. Kaiser and Schnabel graciously accepted bouquets after the performance.

Conductor of the College Orchestra Troy Peter's admirably chose to play passages only from Mozart's operas was admirable. The Middlebury community rarely has the opportunity to hear and experience opera and it is evident that opera was Mozart's favorite medium. That said, Mozart's masterpieces are sometimes problematic due to occasional clear technical weaknesses. The evident tension in the wind section during the Mozart works was surely due to these notoriously bare musical textures. Despite this weakness, however, the strings held the sections of the orchestra together and underlined the success of the first half of the concert.

Nirvana Bhatia

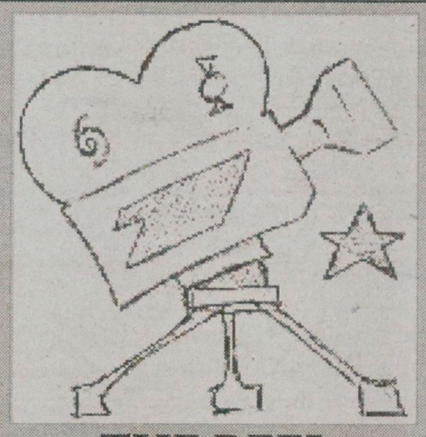
The Middlebury Orchestra, boasting its largest ensemble in recent years, pleasantly surprised audiences with their incredibly professional and heartfelt renditions of Mozart and Bizet.

The second half of the program featured a staple in the orchestral canon, Bizet's "L'Arlesienne Suites." Bizet is better known for his opera *Carmen*, which features some of classical music's most cherished tunes. The "L'Arlesienne Suites" are not as consistent as *Carmen*, but the closing Farandole, with its insistent repetition of the piece's principle theme, had the audience humming out the CFA doors. The "Suites" are unusual in the way that the opening theme of the first suite returns at the end of the second — an important device that the orchestra skillfully recreated.

The second half of the program, despite the absence of a professional soloist like Kaiser, was better than the first. The orchestra was relaxed and, in turn, rendered an often-uninteresting work quite enjoyable. The string section's spicy treatment of the opening of the "Suites" was so convincing that the orchestra's next concert is sure to attract another full-house.

"The orchestra has never been this large or sounded this good, and I'm very proud of them," said Peters of the orchestra's unmistakable advances.

This year's perfomance is especially impressive as Middlebury is not a "music school." Orchestra members split their time between classes, chamber music and private lessons. Principle cellist Adam Morgan '08 said, "I'm taking five classes, accompanying Ezra [Axelrod] '08 in his song cycle and trying to squeeze in a Piazzolla Tango as well. But I think the orchestra sounds amazing, and I'm so happy to be part of it."



THE REEL CRITIC

by Josh Wessler

MOVIE | BORAT
DIRECTOR | LARRY CHARLES
STARRING | SACHA BARON COHEN

Sacha Baron Cohen's pedigree is full of paradox: he was raised an Orthodox Jew to an English father and an Israeli mother. Watching "Borat: Cultural Learnings of America for Make Benefit Glorious Nation of Kazakhstan," you would never know it. He plays a Kazakhstani journalist who fears, among other things, Jews, homosexuals and the physically impaired.

Not surprisingly, in the course of 84 minutes, Cohen manages to offend nearly every social, cultural and religious group in America, not to mention those abroad. In fact, the Kazakhstan government threatened to sue Cohen and, in response to the film, President Nazarbayev asked to meet with President Bush to discuss Kazakhstan's public image. No matter how risqué you may think you are, this movie will shock you, frighten you and undoubtedly make you cringe. Despite all this, it is also the funniest movie this year.

If you've ever seen "Da Ali G Show" on HBO, you're familiar with Cohen and his tactics. On the show, he plays three different characters: the gangster Ali G, the metrosexual Bruno and the backwards foreigner Borat, none of which resemble the "real" Cohen — a Cambridge University scholar. Cohen essentially runs field studies, picking out innocent and not-so-innocent bystanders, experts and celebrities as test subjects. He then uses his various characters to craft an interview or situation that puts the interviewees on the spot and usually ends in disaster with a painfully racist remark or a flabbergasted exit from the interview. This interview tactic is why many criticize Cohen: he puts his subjects in impossible situations where they must either choose to play along with him and risk looking like a Nazi, or leave early and be a prude. These claims of manipulation might be legitimate if we were watching a Michael Moore movie that was marketed as more fact than fiction, but with "Borat," not a chance.

He is immensely offensive, yet he brings with him an intimate understanding of the impact of his words.

In the film, Cohen has extended his popular show into a full length, plot-driven narrative. It retains the episodic nature of the show, following Borat as he makes his way into America to teach his Kazakhstani viewers about the country. Borat soon decides that he would rather forego his intended mission in New York City and instead drive cross-country to California. His new goal: to marry the living Barbie, Pamela Anderson, and learn about the nation's heartland on the way.

Chaos ensues on his first subway ride. His male-on-male customary Kazakh greetings bring threats of violence and he nearly spurs a riot by releasing a live rooster. You wonder how he escaped from the subway in one piece. In fact, most of the movie leaves you wondering how he avoids serious physical violence or, at the very least, arrest. In one scene that could be classified as horrifying, he riles up a rodeo audience by saluting the Iraqi war and singing a fake Kazakh national anthem to the tune of the "Star-Spangled Banner." The crowd's outrage makes it one of the movie's most riveting episodes.

Shot in the hurried style of reality television, the film follows in the tradition of the slap-dash, pay-as-you-go revolution of the nineties. Of course, "Borat" was neither low-budget nor completely unscripted, and though the interviews were brilliantly improvised, the film's structure and transitional segments were carefully planned and edited. These montages and interludes set the movie apart from both "Da Ali G Show" and from other brash, slapstick comedy such as "Jackass."

Unlike the MTV jokers, Cohen has a political punch and his impact is threefold. In a single flick he captures the fear of outsiders, the pervasive racism and the propensity for excessive political correctness that are all too common in America. He is immensely offensive, yet he brings with him an intimate understanding of the impact of his words (when's the last time you met an Israeli English Orthodox Jew?).

He's telling us that we're racist and the fact that this comes as a surprise is because we deny it. We isolate ourselves in a sterile, politically correct world and it takes Cohen's excruciatingly hilarious antics to welcome us back to Earth and teach us to laugh again.

OTTERS IMPROVE ON IMPROV

Jordan Nassar

The Otter Nonsense Players have been making us laugh for a while — 15 years to be exact. Though storied, this improvisational comedy troupe continues to bring fresh, witty, sidesplitting humor to the stressed-out students of Middlebury. Last Wednesday, the Otters struck funnybones again in an intimate show in the recently revived Gamut Room. Students packed into the small space to delight in the antics of the Otters' current funnymen and women: Joe Bergan '07.5, Eric DePriester '09, JJ Hurvich '08.5, Lucas Kavner '06.5, Emily Lee '07, Alexander Manshel '09, Willie Orbison '08 and Lili Weckler '09. Drawing inspiration from visible College figures and events, the international political climate and the ever-amusing, ever-awkward nature of college life, this show was one of the best in recent years, evidenced by the constant bursts of laughter from the engaged, enthusiastic audience. Improvisational comedy is never easy and never perfect, but the Otters pull it off with chemistry, spontaneity and an awesomely amusing ability to poke fun at everything, even themselves. Kavner, the veteran of the troupe, explains the constantly changing and consistently entertaining nature of improv:

"As a group, we're most focused on entertaining people as best we can," said Kavner. "For the big McCullough shows, we like to stick to the shorter games that have a clear payoff and a lot of audience participation because it's a big space, but in some ways it's a lot more fun for us to do the "long form" stuff like the sketch at the gamut room where we took a location — an airport — and just built a bunch of scenes and characters around it. When the "long form" works, I think it's the most amazing thing that improv can do, because when the group gels right and everyone's taking ideas from each other and knows when a scene is dying and when to keep characters going and when to kill them off — that's the best part. It becomes its own little play."

Editors' A&E picks

for the week of 11/16 - 11/22

16

CINDERS
Thurs., Fri. and Sat. at 8 p.m. in Wright Memorial Theatre
Tickets $5/4/3
"Cinders," written by dissident Polish playwright Janusz Glowacki, explores the riveting, unsettling milieu of a girls' reform school in the totalitarian state of present-day Poland. When a filmmaker comes to document the inmates' production of "Cinderella," he uncovers the girls' shocking pasts and calloused present, revealing a world of oppression and hopelessness where freedom is but a distant mirage. This dark, raw comedy, directed by Visiting Professor of Theatre Alex Draper '88, is not to be missed.

16

BULL LYRES, ARCHED HARPS AND SILVER PIPES: MUSIC OF THE SUMERIANS AND THEIR NEIGHBORS
4:30 p.m. in the Center for the Arts, Room 221
In conjunction with the Middlebury College Museum of Art's much-celebrated exhibition "The Royal Tombs of Ur," Bo Lawergren, professor emeritus of physics at Hunter College of the City University of New York, will give a talk on the history of music in Ancient Sumerian culture. You've toured the Ur exhibition to experience the glittering sights of this pioneering civilization. Now learn about its sounds in this compelling lecture.

16

MUSICAL PLAYERS PRODUCTION: URINETOWN
Thurs. at 8 p.m. and Fri. at 8 p.m. and 11 p.m. in the Hepburn Zoo
Side-splitting comedy, stirring drama and spirited song combine in this season's Middlebury Musical Players production of "Urinetown," directed by Maegan Mishico '08.5. This celebrated musical, winner of three Tony awards in 2002, tells the hilarious tale of a lively metropolis struck by sudden water shortage that leads to a ban on private toilets, forcing citizens to pay to pee. Not all hope is lost, however, for a hero comes to the rescue with a revolutionary plan to take down the man. Come see a slew of Middlebury's own musical theater mavens in this riotous, relevant romp.

17

PIANIST PEI YAO WANG AND FRIENDS
8 p.m. in the Center for the Arts Concert Hall
Tickets $15/12/5
Prominent Taiwanese prodigy Pei Yao Wang brings together a number of young string musicians, including violinist and Vermont Youth Orchestra alumnus Soovin Kim and cellist Sophie Shao in this night of classical music. Their repertoire will include work by three composers whose anniversaries we celebrate this year: Mozart, Robert Schumann and Shostakovich.

18

MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE CHAMBER SINGERS
8 p.m. in the Center for the Arts Concert Hall
The Chamber Singers, led by Director of Choral Music Jeff Rehbach, will present a diverse, beautiful array of choral works from medieval to modern times by the likes of Poulenc, Whitacker and Rockmaninoff.

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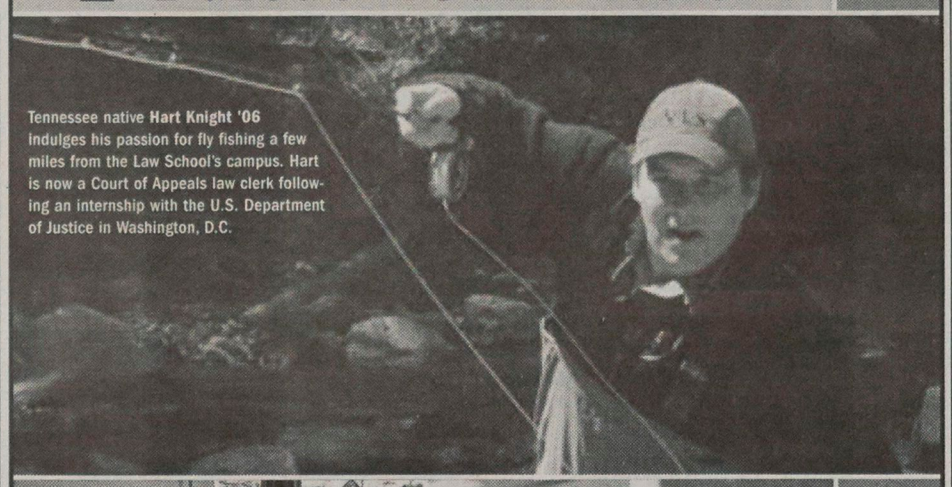
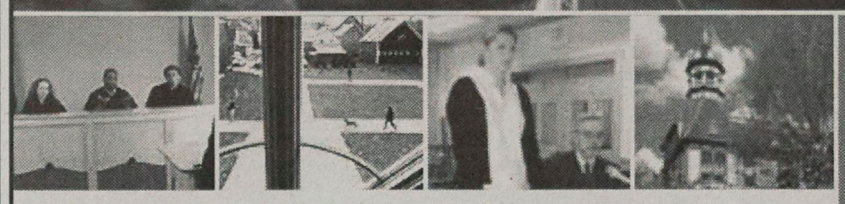


Tennessee native **Hart Knight '06** indulges his passion for fly fishing a few miles from the Law School's campus. Hart is now a Court of Appeals law clerk following an internship with the U.S. Department of Justice in Washington, D.C.



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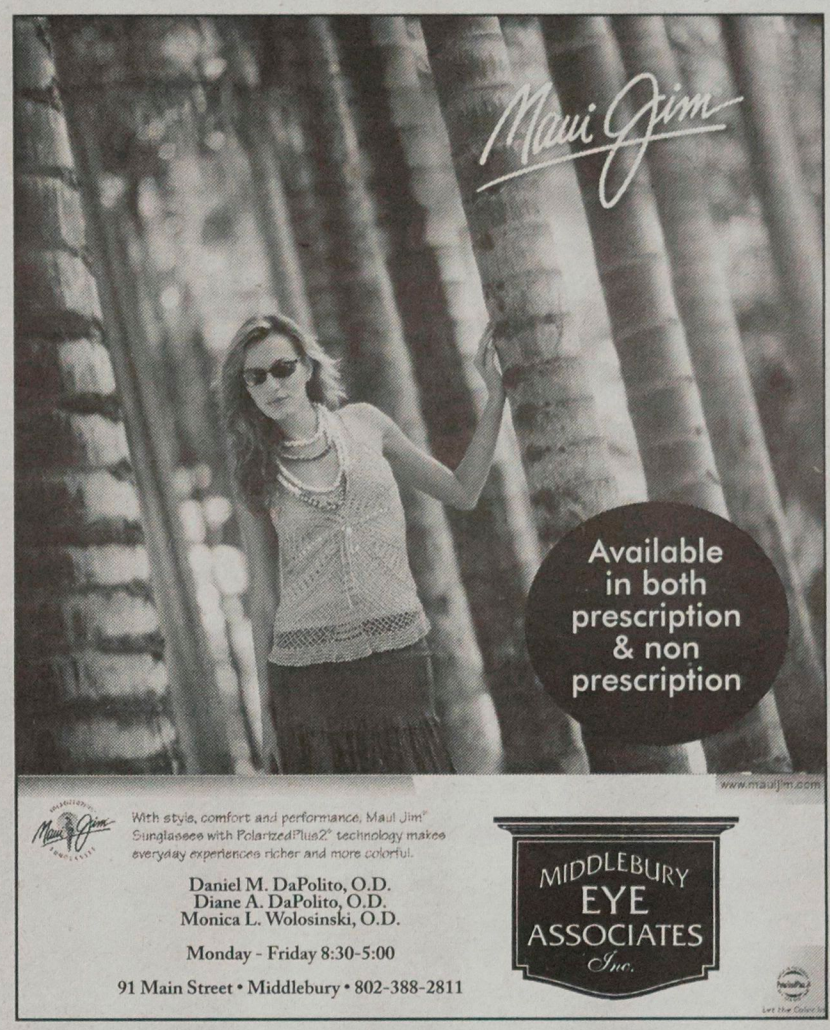

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Winter Sports Preview 2007

Indoor Track

Coach: Martin Beatty
Captains: Beth Butler, Pascal Losambe and Will McDonough
Event to Watch: ECAC Championships, March 2-3

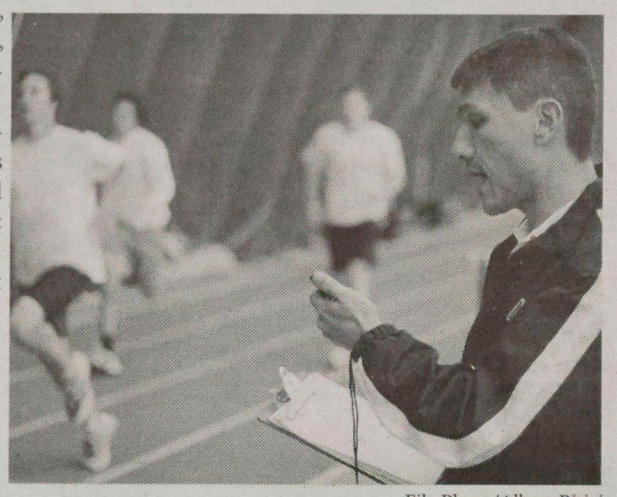
Martin Beatty is all but ready to buy his ticket to Terre Haute, Ind. the site of this year's NCAA championships. Middlebury's indoor track and field coach is extremely excited about his teams' chances, especially on the women's side, to bring home some NESCAC hardware and send athletes to the NCAAs in mid-March.

With the exception of last year's captain, Whitney Creed '06 , the women's squad is bringing back most of last year's core, including NESCAC champions Mary Frederickson '07 (javelin) and Emer Feighery '09 (pole vault).

"I don't know if they really have a weakness," Beatty said. "They're pretty strong all-around. If there's any point where they're slightly less strong, it's probably the throws, but even there the difference is slight."

Jimmy Butcher '08, is excited for the New Year and the new indoor track season. "Coming off of last season, we had a bunch of great runners who we lost to graduation. Our biggest challenge will be getting people, especially freshmen, to step up and fill those shoes," he said.

"We have a terrific group of freshmen men's mid-distance runners," said Beatty. "I don't think we've ever had this talented a group." That group includes seven first-year contributors: Chris Free, Russel Griggs, Bruce Hallett, Michael Waters, Michael Panzer, Peter Hoffman, and Victor Guevara.



File Photo/Albert Bitici

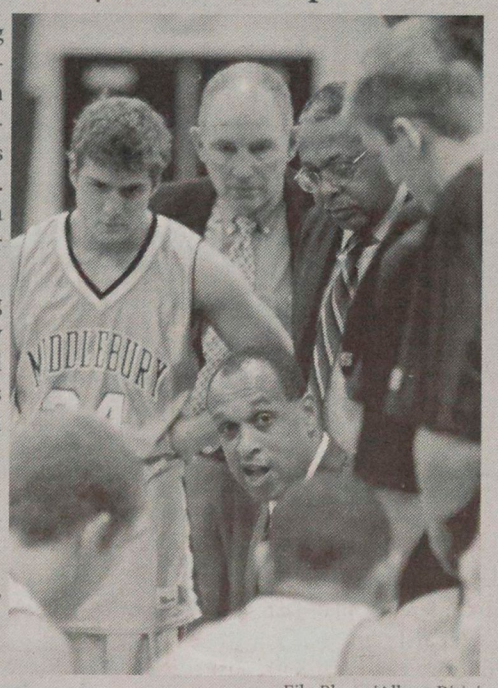
Beatty expects the competition to be stiff, with Williams and Tufts also fielding good teams, but he is optimistic about Middlebury's chances.

"Our goal is always that we win the NESCAC championships. I want to see a good hard-working group."

— Livingston Burgess

Men's Basketball

Coach: Jeff Brown
Captain: Wilbur Hyatt
Game to Watch: Williams vs. Middlebury, Jan. 27 at 3:00 p.m.



File Photo/Albert Bitici

Men's basketball is looking to bring the team to prominence this year. Last season's 12-12 finish was certainly better than the 6-18 record they compiled a year earlier, but the season ended on a bad note as the Panthers dropped their final six games. The players are intent on not having such a letdown occur again and, fortunately, their talent seems to be in abundance this year.

"I think the main thing that is keeping us focused this year is that we realize how much talent our squad has right now," said Captain Wil Hyatt '07. "We know that this should be a big year for us to dominate and then get busy in the NESCAC."

Beyond talent, this year's group has experience — only two members of the team are rookies. Hyatt believes that has helped the team's cohesiveness and overall play.

"We are still putting things together," he said, "but with so many returning players it has been easier to make the transition from fall-ball to the actual season."

The team will emphasize the transition game in particular, as the players will look to push the ball against slower, tired opponents and get easy buckets.

"Our biggest strength this year is our depth," Hyatt said. "We will look to push the ball in transition more than we have in the past and really wear teams down. It should be a style that scores a lot of points and is exciting to watch."

Hyatt teams up with fellow seniors Evan Thompson '07, Bobby Marcoux '07 and Chris Dowd '07, a talented group that will provide veteran leadership to the young guys.

— Jeff Klein

Swimming and Diving

Coach: Peter Solomon (Swimming) and Lisa Gibbs (Diving)
Captains: Rebecca Reingold, Barbara Van der Veer, Liz Rice, Robert Collier, Tim Lux, Michael Young
Event to Watch: Middlebury Invitational, Nov. 18 at 1:00 p.m.

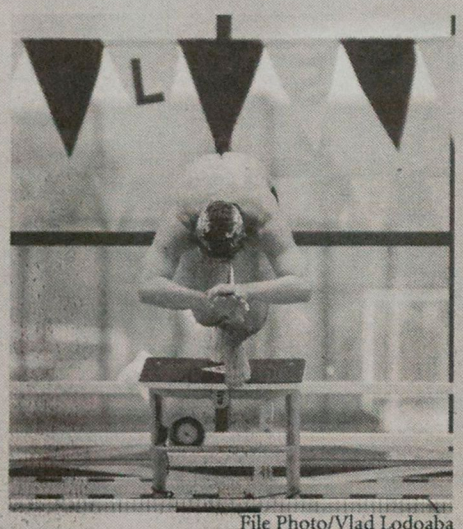
The men's and women's swimming and diving teams are eager to jump in and get the season started. The women, coming off an eighth place finish at the NCAA championships last year, seem poised for another strong season. They return a group of seasoned veterans, including All-Americans Marika Ross '08 and Sara Cowie '08, and have added four promising first-years to the team. This exceptional mix has Captain Liz Rice '07 excited.

"The team is the strongest it has ever been in my four years at Middlebury, and we are going to surprise the teams that have traditionally been our toughest opponents," she said. "Our most important strength is our depth."

On the men's side there is also great optimism for the upcoming season, after violations of team policy brought last season to a premature end. The team will be led by Co-Captains Rob Collier '07 and Tim Lux '07, who both have NCAA championship experience. Returnees Kevin O'Rourke '09, Zach Woods '09, Guillermo Garcia '08 and talented first-years Schuyler Beeman, John Dillion and Brooks Farrar are also expected to make immediate contributions. Middlebury is expected to have the best medley relay team and the top drivers in the NESCAC. Lux noted that this year brings "great potential for a much improved dual meet season."

The women have already kicked off their season with the annual Blue-White meet. Both teams start their regular season at the Middlebury Invitational this weekend.

— Allison Ortega



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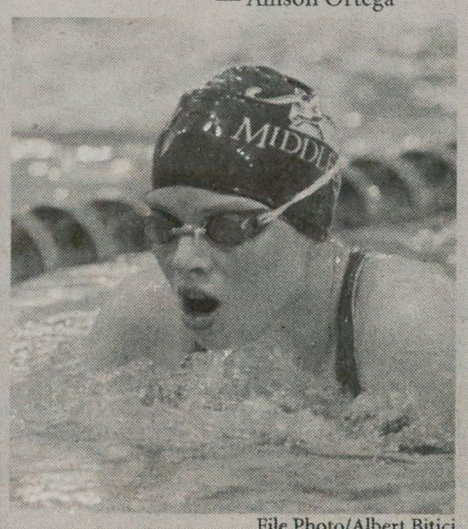


File Photo/Albert Bitici

Women's Hockey

Coach: Bill Mandigo
Captains: Shannon Sylvester, Shannon Tarrant and Emily McNamara
Game to Watch: Bowdoin vs. Middlebury, Jan. 26 at 7:00 p.m.

Courtesy

The women's hockey team rarely likes to talk about winning NCAA championships during the season for superstitious reasons. That being said, it is hard to imagine that the thought has not crossed the players' minds once or twice as they head into the season looking to defend their back-to-back-to-back national crowns.

It seems almost blasphemous to single out individual players among a group that is so team-oriented, but offensively, key returnees include forwards Annmarie Cellino '09 and Tri-Captain Shannon Sylvester. Cellino, a second-team All-American and NESCAC Rookie of the Year, led the team with 26 goals and 21 assists last season. Sylvester, one of this year's captain, is an offensive threat whose scrappy play is known to motivate her teammates.

Defensively, expect the Panthers to be led by Tri-Captains Shannon Tarrant '07 and Emily McNamara '07. The unique system that the Panthers implement under Coach Bill Mandigo includes two forwards and three backs, rendering the position of center back incredibly important. Tarrant, a second-team All-American for the past two seasons, will occupy it. McNamara should solidify the defense with her smarts and solid stick skills.

The big question for the Panthers this season is the one between the pipes. After losing Kate Kogut '06 to graduation, this year's starter has yet to be named. A three-way competition for Kogut's replacement exists between Angie Todd '08, Abby Smith '08 and newcomer Lani Wright '10. Luckily, Kogut has agreed to stay on this year as an assistant coach.

As always, the Panthers are not without their share of incoming talent. Look for Ashley Bairos '10 to contribute offensively and Jess Bennet '10 and Marjie Billings '10 to fill important roles on the blueline.

"Talent wise, this is the best team I've played on during my three years at Middlebury," said Sylvester. "If we use our individual talent collectively we'll have a successful season."

— Seth Miran

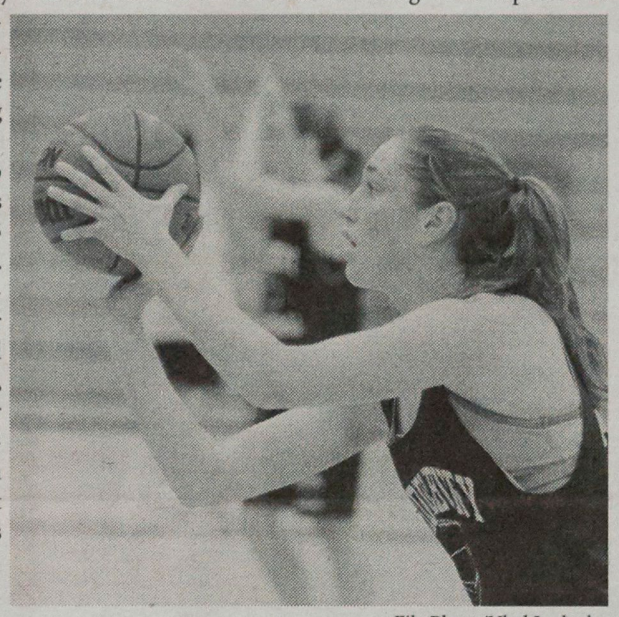
Winter Sports Preview 2007

Women's Basketball

Coach: Noreen Pecsok
Captains: Carlie Harrington and Dana Weissman
Game to Watch: Amherst vs. Middlebury, Jan. 19 at 7:00 p.m.

The women's basketball team tips off the season this Saturday in the Amherst College Tournament in a game against Piedmont, looking to improve on last winter's 14-10 record. After finishing ninth in the NESCAC last season, Middlebury has looked mostly outside of New England for talent, adding three first-years from North Carolina, Pennsylvania and Hawaii, as well as a fourth from Vermont. Coach Noreen Pecsok, who returns for her ninth year, looks to blend the talent of these four first-years in with the strength of her cast of eight returning players.

Despite its .583 winning percentage, the Panthers only mustered two wins in nine tries against NESCAC opponents. Last year, it was Middlebury's defense that kept the team in games, surrendering only 56.0 points per game, which was the third best in the NESCAC. They gave up 65 points on only four occasions. Forward Alanna Young '08 is expected to continue pilfering the opposition — she has the third highest steals per game average (2.08) of any player returning to league play.



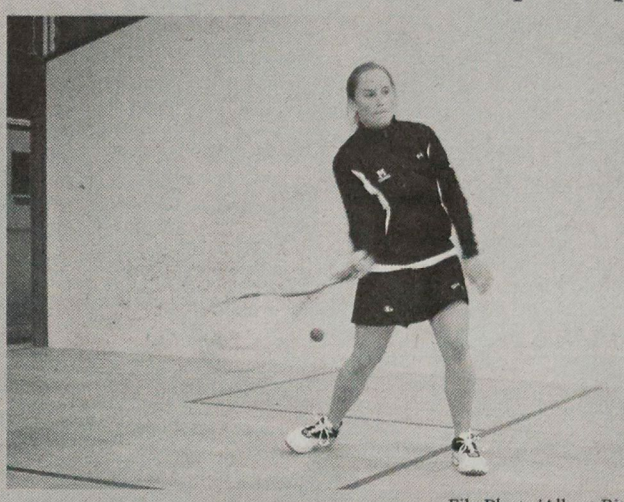
File Photo/Vlad Lodoaba

The Panthers will need to step up at the offensive end, as they were outscored 506 to 555 in conference play last season. Fortunately, the top two scorers from last year, Katie Fisher '08 at 11.8 points per game and Young at 7.9 points per game, return to the court stronger and with an extra year of experience. The squad was known for its late game heroics last year with a 6-2 record in games decided by five points or less.

— Andrew Donnantuono

Women's Squash

Coach: Mike Morgan
Captains: Hannah Baker and Kara Zarchin
Tournament to Watch: NESCAC Championship, Feb. 3-4



File Photo/Albert Bitici

Led by new coach Mike Morgan and stalwart Co-Captain Hannah Baker '07, the Middlebury women's squash team hopes to improve upon a respectable 14th place finish at last year's National Championship.

The headline story of the women's team this year is the arrival of Coach Morgan, who also serves as the women's tennis coach. He is looking to present the team with a fresh start and clear goals. Morgan noted, "We have a great group this year and I'm looking forward to getting them in better shape, and creating a family-like environment."

Taking one look at this year's roster, however, creating team chemistry should not be an issue for Morgan. There are seven returning players from last year's squad, all of whom started in the top-nine seeds. Tack on two more players returning in January from abroad, one Feb and one first-year and you get a team that is consistently strong from the top of the ladder to all the way to the bottom.

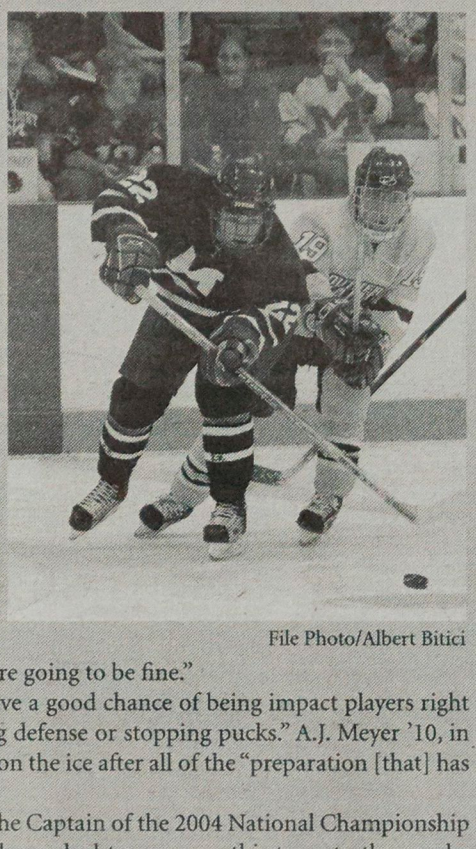
At the top is Baker, who was a finalist in the consolation round of the B bracket at Nationals last year. Behind her is a trio of sophomores, Sarah Hatfield, Caroline Woodworth, and Avery Tilney. The two new players are Elisabeth McMorris '9.5 and Brooke Beatt '10, but as Beatt says, "Even though I'm [new], I feel really included."

Morgan is particularly excited because he notes that this year's squad is "willing to be pushed to the limit physically." Armed with Morgan's fitness expectations, ability and ladder depth, this year's squash team is dangerous.

— Simon Keyes

Men's Hockey

Coach: Bill Beaney
Captain: Richie Fuld
Game to Watch: Middlebury at Norwich, Feb. 4 at 3:00 p.m. on ESPNU



File Photo/Albert Bitici

On a scale from one to ten, men's hockey coach Bill Beaney thinks that the difficulty of four-peating as NCAA champions, with ten being the hardest, will be "about a nine." Ironically, if the Panthers do win another title this year, it would be number nine under Beaney and the ninth in school history.

With nine juniors and eight seniors, this year's team has tremendous depth and multiple scoring options. "When you play with the same people [over and over again] you start to learn where everyone is," said Jamie McKenna '09, who had a stellar first year as he dished out 23 assists, 15 of which went to Mickey Gilchrist '08. Gilchrist starts the season with 45 career goals and is projected to move closer to the College's all-time scoring record of 99 by season's end.

The only real loss from the previous season's roster is captain Jeff Smith '06. "He was by far our best defenseman," said goalie Doug Raeder '09, "but we have enough people brought in and people have matured. We're going to be fine."

McKenna thinks, "our [six] freshman have a good chance of being impact players right off the bat, whether it's scoring goals, playing defense or stopping pucks." A.J. Meyer '10, in particular, is excited for his chance to get out on the ice after all of the "preparation [that] has gone into the past couple of weeks."

New Assistant Coach John Dawson '04, the Captain of the 2004 National Championship team, will join Beaney behind the bench. When asked to compare this team to the one he played on, Dawson said, "They have more potential than we did. This group has a higher ceiling, it's just a matter of coming together and starting to pull in the same direction."

The current seniors were first-years when Dawson was their captain. "They've matured," said Dawson. "Now they're taking leadership roles and pointing out mistakes ... stuff they weren't doing because they were new."

As Coach Beaney was quick to point out, this is a new year. But it certainly has the potential to look very similar to years past.

— Jeff Patterson

Skiing

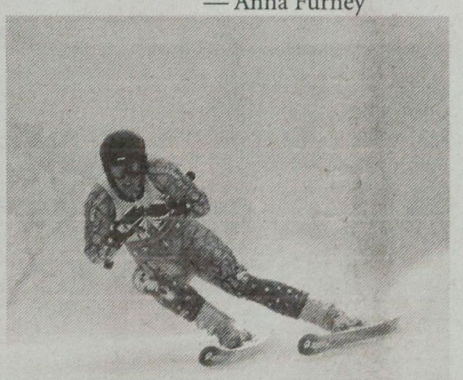
Coaches: Stever Bartlett (Alpine) and Andrew Gardner (Nordic)
Captains: Andrew Everett, Zeke Davisson, Lindsay Brush, Tara Martin, Megan Hughes, Chris Rodgers, Jenny Hamilton and Lizzie Torkelson
Event to Watch: Middlebury Carnival, Feb. 23-24

The 2007 alpine season will begin with a roster filled with experience as well as the addition of new talent coming from Leah McLaughry '10, Jack Reed '10 and Jonathan Hunter '10. The team looks to build upon its success from last season. According to Co-Captain Andrew Everett '07, "We're looking to have a good season. We have the potential individually and we're all great at different moments, but we're striving to put that individual talent together as a unified team." As the alpine team sets off to Copper Mountain, Colo. for a Thanksgiving training camp, skiers will be vying for a limited amount of spots on the carnival team amongst a great wealth of talent. The inter-squad competition will only strengthen the team's individual ability and thus their threat on the EISA skiing circuit. The Panthers have two returning All-Americans, Megan Hughes '08 and Mattie Ford '09, with impressive depth on both the men and women's side.

The training for this nordic ski season started almost immediately after the end of last year's race series. Members of the team trained extensively over the summer and look for their work to pay off. Joy Erdman '08, recognizes that the team moving forward thanks to conditioning trips up the Appalachian Gap and along Middlebury's back roads. The team's athletes are well-armed for a demanding race season. Over Thanksgiving, the "nordies" will embark on their annual trip to Yellowstone, Mont. taking a break from their roller-ski training to find some snow.

— Anna Furney

Jeff Patterson



File Photo/Albert Bitici

By Jeff Klein

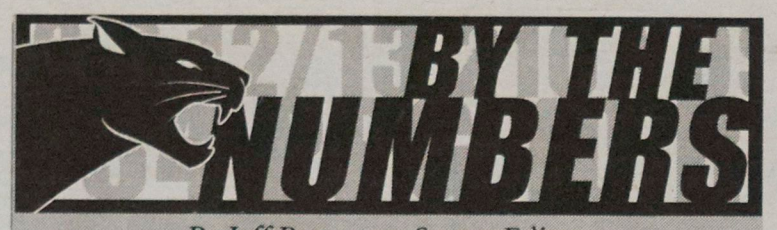
This past Sunday afternoon without a New York Giants football game to watch, I remained mired in my room slaving away over my Economics problem set. It was a dull, dreary day, the kind that reminds you that a brand new week full of work and stress is right around the corner. As I looked over problem three for the twelfth time, still without a clue of how to attack it, my mind began to wander. I thought about what it would be like to live the life of a professional athlete.

Living the life of a pro athlete would be the ultimate experience in luxury. Not only are pro athletes set financially for life in most cases, but nearly everything aside from actually playing the game is handled by someone else. Agents negotiate their multi-million dollar contracts. Team attendants and stadium employees handle all their equipment, making sure everything is laid out perfectly by the time they reach their lockers. Postgame meals are even prepared for them, as if they do not have enough money to spend on their own food.

Look, I understand the grueling nature of the sports that pro athletes play. Many pro athletes are constantly nursing injuries. In the NFL especially, one's season or even career could potentially be ruined on any given play. Pro athletes also have to go through endless repetitions in practice in order to perfect their particular skill. So there is definitely no shortage of hard work.

My point is that, comparatively speaking, pro athletes have it easy. In nearly every occupation, you are going to have to put in effort in order to succeed. Aspiring doctors spend years of their lives in medical school in order to someday earn their medical degrees. Military officers undergo years of preparation and subject their bodies to torturous pain in order to someday serve their country. Likewise, pro athletes come to devote their lives to becoming the most successful at what they do, and they often pay a heavy physical, as well as emotional, price. But in no other occupation can you earn such an enormous sum of money while having so many aspects of your life expertly handled by others.

That's why it upsets me so much when athletes make outlandish statements that make you turn your head and ask, "Did he just say that?" The most notorious example of this was in October of 2004 after the Minnesota Timberwolves offered Latrell Sprewell a three-year, $21 million contract extension. This offer was less than his current contract was paying him, but was obviously still a gargantuan pile of money. How did Latrell respond? "I have a family to feed," he declared flatly. What? Latrell, some people really *do* have to worry about feeding their families every day. If only he could recognize how relatively painless and stress-free his life truly is. Such is the life of the professional athlete.



By Jeff Patterson, Sports Editor

17	Points allowed by the Middlebury football team in their six wins this season.
71	Points allowed by the Middlebury football team in their two losses this season.
6-2	Record of the Middlebury football team this year, its best mark in six years. They won three of their first four games and won three of their last four games.
6-2	Height of the tallest player on the women's basketball team, Aylie Baker '09.
1	Number of native Californians who play basketball (either men's or women's) for the Panthers.
2	Number of native Californians who play hockey (either men's or women's) for the Panthers.

Field hockey falls helplessly

By Allison Ortega
Staff Writer

Sometimes the ball just does not bounce your way. This was the case for the Middlebury field hockey team in its NCAA tournament match-up against William Smith on Saturday. The Panthers were the dominant team throughout the game, but when the final horn sounded they were one goal short on the scoreboard. William Smith edged Middlebury 2-1 and brought the Panthers' season to an end.

In the game's opening minutes, it seemed as though the Panthers were going to roll past the Herons and square off against Bowdoin in the NCAA regional final. From the start, Middlebury used crisp passing and accurate transitions to control the game. Within the first seven minutes, the Panthers had earned six consecutive penalty corners. They were, however, unable to use them to their advantage and did not score.

Half-way through the opening period in one of Wiliam Smith's first trips into Panther territory, the Herons beat goalkeeper Meg McGillen '07 off of a rebound. Although Middlebury had 15 corners and 10 shots in the first half, they were down at the break.

During the second half, Middlebury continued to control the game, but could not convert any of their scoring chances. With 20 minutes remaining, the Herons doubled their lead with a deflection past McGillen.

With the two-goal deficit, the Panthers responded as Reid Berrien '08 took a pass at midfield, beat her defender and then ripped a shot past Heron goalie Katie DeKracker on her breakaway. But the effort proved to be too little, too late. The Herrons clung to their lead for the remainder of the game with a tight defense that crowded around the net. Despite numerous scoring opportunities in the game's final minutes, the Panthers were unable to get the equalizer.

The loss brought a close to the careers of Middlebury's six seniors: Dana Rye, Michelle Archambault, Emily Read, Liza Humes, Blair Hewes and McGillen. Over the past four seasons they have helped make Middlebury field hockey into a perennial national powerhouse. During this span the team made four consecutive NCAA tournament appearances and compiled an overall record of 65 wins and nine losses.

"For the past four years, the other seniors and I have been a part of a great field hockey tradition," Reid said. "I'm sure they would all agree with me that even though we didn't win a national championship this year, this season was definitely the most exciting and rewarding."

Football ends season at 6-2

Continued from page 24

The Middlebury defense was dominant as usual, earning its third shutout of the year. Erik Woodring '08 led the way with 17 tackles, giving him 88, for the season and Kevin Ryan '07 ended the day with four tackles and two sacks. His 15.5 sacks on the season are both a Middlebury and NESCAC single-season record.

Captain Scott Secor '07 ended his career in the Middlebury record book as well. He ranks third on the all-time tackles list with 223.

"In years past, the captains were looked to for the majority of the leadership, said Secor. "This year we took on the leadership role as an entire senior class and I think you saw the outcome of that on the field."

Chris Bohorquez
Tight End Jamie Staples '07 stretches for a couple of extra yards against Tufts.

Butcher '08 will run alone

Continued from page 24

ence," said Giddings. "We were very motivated going into it and we all stepped up."

The men's team, which ran before the women on Saturday, finished in eighth behind the winner, Williams. Jimmy Butcher '08 finished fifth out of 309 runners in 25:52.8, averaging 5:10.56 minutes per mile. Peter Murphy '09 finished 31st in 26:32, but no one could catch the Ephs, who dominated the event to beat their closest competitor, Bowdoin, by 68 points.

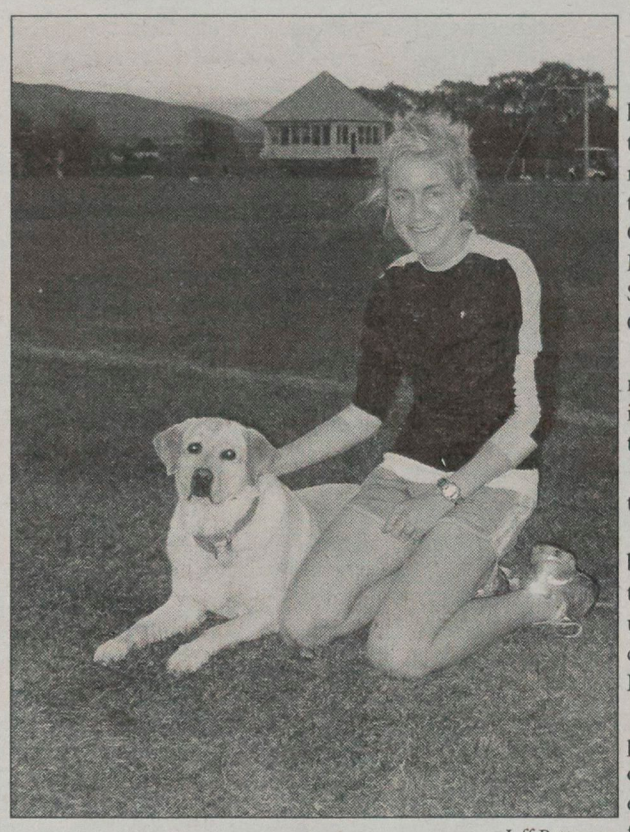
The women will continue their season this weekend at the NCAA Championship in West Chester, Ohio. Butcher will represent the men's team as an individual.

EDITORS' PICKS

Questions of the	*Geoff Homer*	*James Kerrigan*	*Jeff Patterson*
Which team does men's hockey score more goals against? Tufts or Connecticut College?	CONN. COLLEGE When in doubt, go with the team that finished last in the NESCAC and had the most goals against.	TUFTS Both are bottom dwellers, but the men will be fired up on opening night and will light the lamp often.	TUFTS A lot of players will be sneaking peaks at the OSU-Michigan game between shifts vs. Conn. and they will miss scoring opportunities.
Which sports editor gains the most weight over the Thanksgiving holiday?	JAMES KERRIGAN I would say me, but then I realized I will not be eating a turkey dinner.	JEFF PATTERSON As he told us in By the Numbers, last Thanksgiving break he only 888.	JEFF PATTERSON (Food + Football) x (Friends + Family) = Fat + I can control this. + Mom makes mean mashed potatoes.
Who wins the "national championship" football game, Ohio State or Michigan?	MICHIGAN I've always rooted for the underdog.	MICHIGAN My all-time favorite hat was an OSU one, but I was born in Detroit. I must stick to my roots. "M let's go Blue."	OHIO STATE Lloyd Carr's team will break down in the hostile Buckeye environment.
Record:	**11-10 (.524)**	**7-14 (.333)**	**8-13 (.381)**

INSIDE THE LOCKER ROOM

Erin Archard '07 runs into some *Campus* questions



Jeff Patterson

By James Kerrigan
Sports Editor

Cross country senior standout Erin Archard has helped lead the women's team to victory at the NCAA Regional and a number two national ranking. With last week's win, the team will head to Wilmington College to compete in the NCAA Championship. With a good week of training, Middlebury hopes to run past the top-ranked SUNY Geneseo team and win its fourth National Championship in the past six years.

The Vienna, Maine native has been a reliable runner all year, tallying six top ten overall finishes in her seven races including an individual title at the State meet on September 30th.

She is no stranger to competition, nor are the two students who think they know Archard best.

Andrea Giddings '07 has been running side-by-side with Archard for four years. The two seem to flip-flop each race as to who takes the individual crown. But can Giddings edge out the tallest competitor in the history of the Inside the Locker Room competition, Evan Thompson '07?

The senior basketball star is no stranger to-playing above the rim. He also lives in Fletcher just down the hall from Archard, so will he be able to elevate himself above Giddings and bank a victory for the roommates?

Teammate vs. Roommate

	Archard	Giddings	Thompson
What kind of shoes do you race with?	Nike, always Nike	Nike (1)	Nike (1)
Favorite Seinfeld character — Jerry, George, Elaine or Kramer?	Kramer	Kramer (1)	George (0)
What kind of toothpaste do you regularly use?	Colgate, Crest... I like change	Toothpaste from hotels (0)	Colgate Total (.25)
Any nicknames your teammates or friends frequently call you?	Not that I know of	E-Lobstah (0)	Archy (0)
What was your favorite childhood book?	Curious George series	Nancy Drew (0)	The Giving Tree (0)
Second favorite sport?	Rugby	Soccer (0)	Mud wrestling (0)
Addicted to any TV shows?	Grey's Anatomy	Grey's Anatomy (1)	Greys Anatomy (1)
final score...		**3.0**	**2.25**

Question difficulty increased considerably this week and the results reflected this change. In a low scoring affair, Giddings, who is bidding for a National Championship, edged out Thompson by a narrow .75 margin and helped the teammates clinch the fall season of the Inside the Locker Room competition.

While this battle may have lacked accuracy in teammate and roommate responses, the competitors made up for it with a dose of creativity. From E-Lobstah to toothpaste stolen from hotels, Giddings offered some interesting insight into Archard's life.

Thompson, the six-foot, six-inch basketball forward, incorrectly guessed that Archy's favorite board game was the "That's So Raven Girl Talk Game." Naturally, her favorite board game is Clue. Furthermore, the Nike-wearing runner will be doing much more running than talking this weekend as she and her teammates compete at the NCAA Championships.

In the first multi-gendered Inside the Locker Room competition, the woman came out on top. Will the roommates and men be able keep pace in the next edition or will the teammates stay ahead in the season series?

PANTHER SCOREBOARD

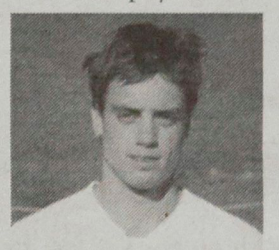
Date	Sport	Vs.	Result	Comments
Nov. 11	Field Hockey	William Smith	2-1 L	Out shoot William Smith 20-13 but lose the opening round NCAA game.
Nov. 11	Football	Tufts	10-0 W	Kevin Ryan '07 sacked QB Matt Russo and then Scott Secor '07 intercepted him as time expired.
Nov. 11	X-Country	NCAA Regional	W: 1st/48 M: 8th/45	Seniors Giddings and Archard lead women to the NCAA Championship.
Nov. 11 Nov. 12	W Soccer	Scranton W. Conn. St.	4-3 W (OT) 3-2 W	Women record 9th consecutive win and will play in the NCAA sectional on Sat.
Nov. 11	M Soccer	St. Lawrence	2-1 L	The Saints end the Panthers' season in the NCAA first-round match.
Nov. 11 Nov. 12	M Rugby	Univ. of Maine Coast Guard	20-3 W 11-5 L	Despite losing to Coast Guard, Midd made Nationals as the #7 seed.

SPORTS BRIEFS

BY GEOFF HOMER, SPORTS EDITOR

11 Panthers receive All-NESCAC honors

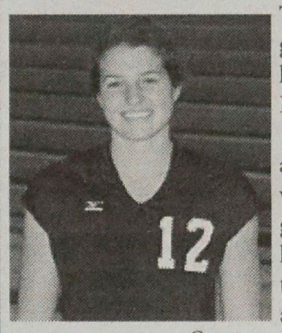
A total of eleven Panthers earned All-NESCAC honors this weekend in four different sports. Men's soccer fielded three all-conference players, women's soccer three, volleyball one and field hockey four. In addition, women's soccer coach Peter Kim was named NESCAC Coach of the Year.



Courtesy

For the men's soccer squad, Co-Captains Dave Lee '07 (pictured right) and Zack Toth '07 received accolades, as did Casey Ftorek '08. Toth received first-team honors and ended his career as one of the top goalies to don a Middlebury uniform. Not to be overshadowed was Lee, who received second-team honors for his strong play as a back in which he was the cornerstone of the defense. Lastly, Ftorek, who transferred from Union, made an immediate impact. This first-team selection led the NESCAC and the Panthers with 34 points on the season, tying the Middlebury record.

Volleyball player Lexie Fisher '08 (pictured left) received All-NESCAC second-team honors this season, as the Panthers advanced to the NESCAC Tournament. She led the team with 3.53 kills per game and 106 blocks on the season. Fisher also had 85 block assists this season. With a year left, Fisher has a shot to set several Panther records.



Courtesy

From the field hockey team, Reid Berrien '08 and Lacey Farrell '08 received first-team honors while Taryn Petrelli '09 and Meghan McGillen '07 garnered second-team honors. For Berrien, it is her second straight first-team award. She led the team with 11 goals and her 28 points were tops at Middlebury. Classmate Farrell had a great year in the midfield as she finished tied for third on the team with six goals. McGillen ends her career as Middlebury's all-time shutout leader, with 21. She also ranks first all-time with a 1.06 goals-against-average and second with 427 saves. Petrelli has been a constant presence in the defense, starting 17 games, shutting down the opponent's leading scorer.

Last but not least, the women's soccer team, which has enjoyed the most post-season success of any Panther squad, had Tri-Captains Kim Walker '07 and Caitrin Abshere '07 receive first-team honors, while Erin Pittenger '07 received second-team honors. Coach Kim received NESCAC Coach of the Year for the second time in his three seasons as Middlebury's coach for his efforts in leading Middlebury to it's first NESCAC Championship since 2000.

File Photo/Chris Heinrich

Macky bikes brilliantly

Macky Franklin '10 had quite the October on his mountain bike. He competed in the NCCA Mountain Bike National Championships in Angel Fire, N.M. Oct. 20-22 after winning both the cross country (XC) and short track (STXC) races at the Eastern Conference Collegiate Cycling Championships, which were hosted at Jiminy Peak in Dalton, Mass. the previous weekend.

Despite getting off to a tough start in New Mexico — his bike was locked to the roof rack of his car and he could not find the key — Franklin finished 14th out of 86 bikers in the XC and 15th out of 75 racers in the STXC.

"I wasn't quite ready for the altitude," said Franklin. "I realized how fast the western riders are and sadly realized that I was not in as good of shape as I could have been."

Unsung Hero of the Week

Claire Shultz '07 (Women's Cross Country)
Shultz finished 24th at Regionals as Middlebury's fifth runner, which allowed the Panthers to sneak past Amherst and usurp their #2 national ranking.

Sports

Women's soccer stretches season to the sweet sixteen

By Jeff Patterson
Sports Editor

It was late, a little after 1:45 a.m. on Monday, when the women's soccer team arrived back on campus. It was also late, in overtime to be exact, when Nora Tomlinson-Weintraub '10 scored to beat the University of Scranton 4-3 in the opening round of the NCAA Tournament. And finally it was late, with only 12 minutes of game-play remaining, when Tri-Captain Caitrin Abshere '07 scored the game-winner, to move the Panthers 3-2 past host Western Connecticut State, the 3rd-ranked team in the nation.

Women's Soccer

Saturday, November 11

Middlebury (OT)	4
University of Scranton	3

Sunday, November 12

Middlebury	3
Western Connecticut State	2

Abshere, coincidentally, scored both the first goal of the weekend and the last. With her first goal on Saturday, Middlebury was tied 1-1 with Scranton at halftime, but they trailed twice during the second half. Tomlinson-Weintraub and Lindsay Walker '07 came to the rescue and tied the game. Tomlinson-Weintraub's goal was set-up by Abshere who, with the pass, passed Leah Cumsky-Whitlock's '02 record of 23 career assists.

In overtime, the stage was set for Tomlinson-Weintraub. On a direct kick from five yards outside of the penalty box, the California Crusher hit the net and the game was over.

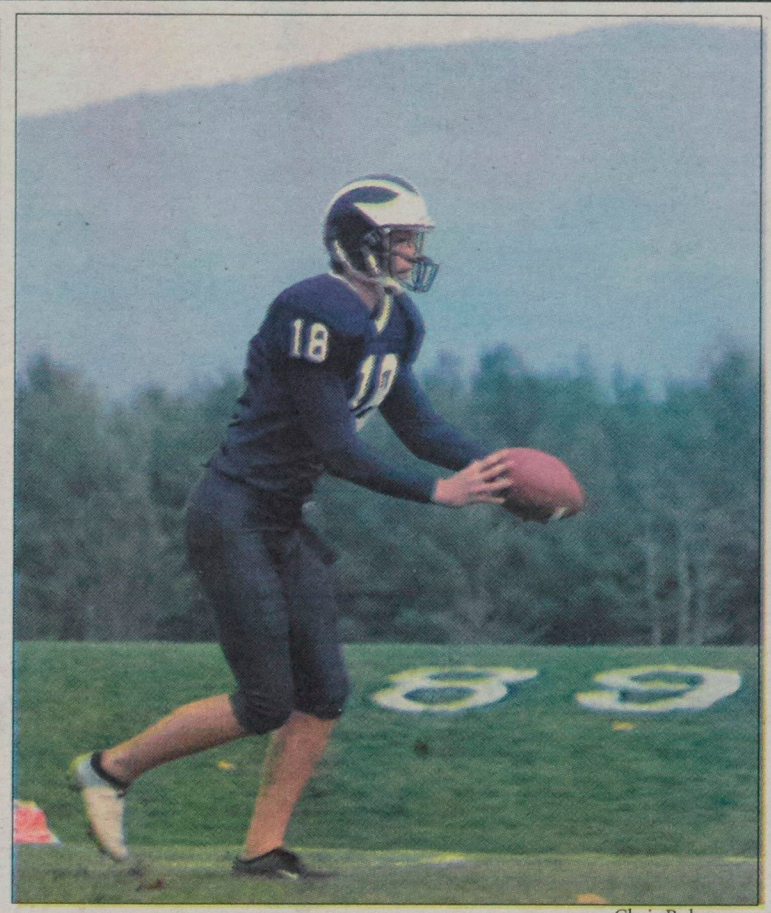
"That goal was definitely the biggest of my career," said Tomlinson-Weintraub. "The next-biggest is the one that tied it up 2-2. [This] game was definitely the most important situation I've ever been in."

Abshere has tons of praise for the first-year phenom, who has scored nine goals and dished out six assists so far this season. "Nora's been a huge asset, she has poise and confidence on the field that's surprising for a first year," she said. "Nora rarely enters a game without making an impact."

Still, the Panthers were not done after Saturday's performance. Western Connecticut, who had outscored their opponents 85-10 while compiling a 20-1-1 record, stood in the way. With the game again tied 1-1 at halftime, Abshere scored two goals in the second half, 7:01 apart, and goalie Adele Plunkett '09 made ten saves to stop the Colonials. Abshere's second goal of the game, which came only 22 seconds after Western Connecticut tied the game at two, stole whatever momentum the Colonials had tried to recover.

"To be able to pick ourselves up and get it done again the next day showed a great deal of spirit and resolve," said Abshere. "I think everyone found something a little extra."

Middlebury will play again on Saturday when they travel to the Garden State to take on The College of New Jersey, who blasted Villa Julie 10-1 in the second-round. "We're on a pretty good roll, said Tomlinson-Weintraub. "I have all the confidence in the world in our defense to stop them."



Chris Bohorquez
Steve Hauschka '07 pinned the Jumbos inside the 20-yard line four times.

Veterans lead football on Veteran's Day

By George Mayer
Staff Writer

Different week, same story. For the second time in as many weeks, the Middlebury football team earned a 10-0 shutout victory. This week's win against Tufts capped off an impressive 6-2 season that earned them third place in the NESCAC.

Not only was the score the same as last week, but the storyline was, too. The Panthers' only touchdown came when Tiger Lyon '07 found Evan Beilin '09 on a short out-pattern, on which Beilin broke a pair of tackles en route to a 77-yard score. Last week at Hamilton, it was this same combination that hooked up for a touchdown. The remaining three points came from Steve Hauschka's '07 right foot. His 32-yard field goal in the fourth quarter, his tenth of the year, broke the school's single-season record.

See Football ends, page 22

Women's XC runs one hill of a race

By Jeff Patterson
Sports Editor

The women's cross country team finished ahead of 48 teams on Saturday afternoon to win the NCAA New England Regional, hosted by Springfield College. Last week the team was left out of the Power Rankings, but this week they ran with powerful legs.

"Our team handles high pressure races well," said Erin Archard '07. "We knew what we needed to do and got it done."

After finishing fourth in the NESCAC Championship to some of the best teams in the country — Amherst, Tufts and Williams — two weeks earlier, this race was a different story with a happier ending.

Andrea Giddings '07 finished sixth in 22:01.2, Archard crossed the line 16 seconds later in ninth and Alexandra Krieg '09 came in 12th.

"There were a lot of rolling hills," said Giddings, as she described the Massachusetts course. "We do a lot of hard hill work in the beginning of the season and [the hills gave] us an opportunity to surge and pass people."

Makely Lyon '07 and Claire Schultz '07 rounded out Middlebury's five scoring runners. Schultz's 24th place finish was huge in the 73-78 point differential because the fifth runner from second place Amherst, Katie Moravec, finished 30th.

"We all had good races on Saturday and that really made the differ-

See Butcher, page 22

Winter Sports Preview

File Photo/Ilhan Kim
Above, seven Middlebury hockey fans clearly show who their favorite forward is. Turn to pages 20 and 21 as we look forward to the 2006-2007 winter sports season. There you will find previews that include statistics about Panthers basketball forwards as well thoughts from the forward-looking track coach Martin Beatty.

Saints march over men

By Andrew Schlegel
Staff Writer

Making its first appearance in the NCAA tournament since 2000, the men's soccer team faced a perennially strong St. Lawrence side at Lubetkin Field in Newark, N.J. The Panthers were unable to keep up the run of strong play that brought them to the tournament and they fell to the Saints 2-1.

The Panthers struck first when Max MacKinnon '09 blasted a shot from the corner of the six-yard box past St. Lawrence goalkeeper Emilio Coletta in the 33rd minute. With a defense that shut out both Amherst and Williams in regulation play on consecutive days, Middlebury appeared ready to fight off the Saints' offensive march.

Nevertheless, St. Lawrence struck back in the 36th minute. Charlie Bogosian knocked in a cross from Brendan Tougher to equalize the match. The intense and often physical style of play employed by St. Lawrence resulted in numerous hard tackles and the distribution of three yellow cards.

The rest of the match was close. Both teams had their chances to score, but the keepers played well, making goals difficult to manufacture. Coletta ended with six saves while Co-Captain Zach Toth '07 ended with eight.

With nearly eleven minutes to play, James Merrill of St. Lawrence broke the tie. He collected the ball 30 yards out, sidestepped Toth and passed the ball across the goal line from 15 yards out. The goal won the game for the Saints and lifted them into the next round of the NCAA Tournament.

"I thought we were the better team," said Co-Captain and anchor of the back four, Dave Lee '07, "but as we all know, the better team does not always win. We came out playing well and scored a goal, but they tied it up at the end of the second half. From there on, it was a 50-50 battle. It just so happened their chance went in and ours did not."

The Panthers ended their season at 11-6-1. Although the season lacked the consistent play that many expected from the team, the Panthers did pull it together in time to make a run in the post-season and give the seniors something to remember. Lee commented, "We went from a team of failure to a team that made the NCAA tournament for the first time in 6 years and of that I will always be proud."

This Week in Sports

INSIDE THE LOCKER ROOM: ERIN ARCHARD
Who knows the cross country runner better? page 23

GAMES TO WATCH
Men's Hockey vs. Tufts, Nov 17 at 7:00
Swimming: Midlebury Invitational, Nov 18 at 1:00

FIELD HOCKEY:
Falls in the first round of the NCAA Tourney despite a 20-13 shot advantage, page 22